

## Laker wins six-month respite

The immediate financial problems of Laker Airways appear to have been solved. It is understood that agreement has been reached to reschedule loan repayments of £190m, and that the aircraft manufacturers McDonnell Douglas and Airbus Industrie have played a leading part in the arrangement.

This would give Laker Airways a "breathing space" of at least six months in which to sort out its finances. But the situation could force Sir Freddie Laker, the chairman, to abandon his cheap fares policy as part of plans necessary to improve the airline's cash-flow.

Laker's merchant bankers, Samuel Montagu and Co., are expected to indicate that agreement has been reached between 27 European banks to allow a relaxation of the debt repayments.

Business News, page 17

## Nigerian threat to exports

British exports to Nigeria, worth more than £1,200m, could be at risk after a budget speech by the Nigerian President. His aim to halt the decline in the country's official reserves could mean a curb on imports.

Page 15

## No public cash for Land's End

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided that the appeal for £500,000 of government money to help buy Land's End for the nation cannot be justified. The decision caused confusion at the National Trust.

Back page

## Trident TV buys Playboy

Playboy Enterprises said in Chicago last night it had signed a formal agreement to sell nearly all its gambling operations in the United States to Trident Television for a reduced price of \$26m. The deal includes five gambling casinos, a 50 per cent interest in two other casinos and 80 betting shops.

## Budget call to finance ministers

EEC finance ministers have been called on to try to resolve the dispute about the 1982 budget. The European Parliament has produced an amended proposal for more money to go to economic development.

Page 6

## Sprout shortage

Hard frosts have reduced supplies of Brussels sprouts by a quarter. Farmers have been harvesting frozen crops, which deteriorate rapidly. Only a prolonged mild spell will avert a critical shortage at Christmas.

Page 5

## ACC director

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian newspaper and television station owner, has joined the board of Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation and taken three per cent of the voting shares.

Page 15

## Namibia step

The West's revised constitutional guidelines for Namibian independence were handed to Mr R. T. Bosh, the South African Foreign Minister, who said the process appeared to be "still on the tracks".

Page 9

## World Cup agent

Hunter Davies talks to the man who is not only the agent of Kevin Keegan, one of England's leading footballers, but also looks after the financial interests of England's World Cup team.

Page 19

## Everest assault

The British team under Chris Bonington which will attempt to climb Everest next year by the unclimbed east-northeast ridge has been announced. The climb will be made in Alpine style.

Page 3

## Letter page, 13

Letters: On Poland, from Mr John Lyons, and others; the economy, from Professor Wynne Godley; racial equality, from Sir Geoffrey Wilson. Leading articles: London faces Britain's EEC treaty advisers. Features, pages 11, 12. Gallipoli: how fair is the film to the British? by Martin Gilbert; David Watt sees a threat to Western unity over Poland; Where does London transport go now? Obituary, page 14. Sir Sukraat Johnson-Marshall, Professor C. H. Williams, Lord Stratheden and Campbell.

Home 2, 3, 5, 6	Motorway 21
Overseas 6-9	Parliament 9
Arts 10	Science 14
Business 15-19	Sport 19-21
Court 14	TV & Radio 23
Crossword 24	Theatre, etc 23
Diary 24	Yesterday 24
Events 24	Universities 14
Law Report 4	Weather 24
Lurie cartoon 4	Wills 14

# Seven miners shot dead by troops in Katowice

By Our Foreign Staff

In the first admission of bloodshed by the Polish authorities since the military takeover, Warsaw radio reported last night that seven workers had been killed and 38 injured in a clash in the south of the country.

The incident occurred when security forces opened fire on Wednesday on strikers who attacked them at a mine in Katowice, as Warsaw radio put it. In the Baltic port of Gdansk, where Solidarity was founded, 164 civilians and 162 members of the security forces were injured in violence, the radio said.

The reports appear to confirm the general impression that while Warsaw is calm and quiet, under complete military control, the struggle of the workforce in Polish mines and factories may now be widespread.

The radio, monitored in Vienna, said that "forces of order" opened fire after being attacked by striking workers, armed with axes, stones and other implements who tried to prevent them entering the Wujek colliery at Katowice. There were 41 wounded among the security forces.

Members of the Politburo, including two elected at the last party congress, have been arrested and detained by the military authorities, according to diplomatic sources reaching Western capitals yesterday.

They are said to be Mr Hieronim Kubiak and Mr Jan Labacki, who are both regarded as liberals. If the reports were confirmed, it would indicate that the new military regime has scant regard for the party leadership.

Mr Kubiak, a university professor from Cracow, was an advocate of the national front which had been proposed to embrace Solidarity, the Roman Catholic Church and the party.

He had increasingly become frustrated with the way Solidarity was rejecting proposals from the party, and had seen the situation heading for confrontation.

Mr Labacki is from the Leninist left in Gdansk, where Mr Lech Walesa emerged to lead Solidarity. He attracted immediate attention when he became a member of the Politburo during the July party congress by the very fact that he was a worker.

A distinct liberal in party terms, he spoke after his election of the need to be politically accountable to the workers and cut a relaxed, modest figure.

According to Polish diplomatic sources abroad, the Poles insist that the decision to impose martial law was entirely their own. It has even been suggested that General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, informed Moscow of the operation only last Friday, and that Poland's East European allies were not told until the next day, just a few hours before the move.

Warsaw radio claimed last

## Lawson unveils oil and gas sale Bill

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

The first stage of the Government's controversial plans to sell off the oil production interests of the British National Oil Corporation and the British Gas Corporation could be completed by the end of next year and is likely to yield £1,400m.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, yesterday introduced the Bill which will enable the Government initially to dispose of the corporation's oil production interests and will sweep away the British Gas monopoly on purchases of gas, curtail its monopoly in gas supply by opening the market to private competition, and provide the machinery for the disposal of the gas corporation's oil production activities.

The Bill attracted further broadsides from trade union leaders and Opposition MPs.

Mr Marilyn Rees, Opposition spokesman on energy, said: "This Bill is a parliamentary, industrial and national disgrace. It gives extraordinary, extra-parliamentary powers to the Secretary of State to do what he likes, how he likes, when he likes, with our vital national energy assets."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Mr John Edmonds, national energy officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union who said after the first reading: "A drunken sailor would be more careful than this Government in squandering valuable assets."

Mr Lawson, speaking at a press conference after publication of the Bill, underlined the Government's espousal of the privatization route to make state corporations more efficient, and said of the Bill: "It will allow the creation of a thriving new British oil company, to be known as Britoil, with a wide spread of ownership by the British public. The articles of association will prevent unacceptable changes

## Hotel Viktoria Warsaw

## Cold cells for the thousands who err

The following letter to the editor from Roger Boyes, The Times correspondent in Warsaw, was received in London yesterday:

Poland's new military leadership is rounding up several thousand dissident intellectuals, writers, and union activists in an effort to stamp out any potential opposition. Western diplomats talk of 15,000 arrests but other sources have estimated the total to be at least three times that.

Church sources say that there is a move to concentrate as many of the inmates as possible in the Bialaieka jail outside Warsaw. Conditions are said to be extremely bad with most cells having no water or heating. The prisoners are technically "informed" under the statutes of the state of war and most have not been charged.

It is sufficient grounds for arrest to be suspected of future involvement in opposition activities. That means a particularly wide net and secret police, often backed by troops, have been extremely active after the 10 o'clock curfew over the past four days.

Almost all the Solidarity leadership has been arrested—98 union activists are held in Gdansk—though there are reports about the fate of Mr Lech Walesa, still technically the chairman of Solidarity. Some sources, within the Church, say he is being held virtually incommunicado in a government villa outside Warsaw. It is understood to have said: "I see only trees and tanks"—while other reports suggest he has since been moved to a prison.

## Long standing ambition

The pattern underpinning the arrests is to deny the dissenting opposition any kind of voice within the church or intellectuals. Journalists and writers who could have written critical pamphlets have been arrested, including the deputy chairman of the Polish PEN Club, (Pewni, the Polish writers' union), and other Catholics outside the organisation have been arrested.

Most members of KOR, the workers' self-defence committee—effectively Solidarity's think-tank—are being held, as are people without any Polish Government even in its most reformist mood. Historians, sociologists and philosophers from the Academy of Science have been detained after trying to stage a strike, and a number of dissenting academics, active in the mid-1970s, have also been arrested, although it has not been active for some time.

Students active in the 1976 riots—now frequently young professionals without any strong political leanings—have also been picked up. However, it is significant that the security forces have not arrested any deputies from the Sejm, the Polish Parliament.

The military council of national salvation, at the head of the armed forces, rules with and through the Council of Ministers. That is to say, most ministers have kept their portfolios. But under normal circumstances governmental decisions would have to be submitted to the critical scrutiny of the Sejm, which has developed considerable independence over the past year and indeed has shown sympathy with Solidarity.

The military leadership has eliminated this problem by cancelling the scheduled sessions of the Sejm and in turn allows it to preserve a semblance of respect for constitutional niceties and removes the need to arrest deputies. The big problem lies with the reformist wing of the party and the non-Solidarity reformers.

## Sources of qualified optimism

General Jaruzelski had represented, until about two weeks ago, a source of qualified optimism: he at least was a party chief who swore by dialogue with Solidarity and the Church. Now the reformers are an embarrassment for the regime: economic reform, in the sense of decentralisation, will almost certainly be abandoned and political reform is almost inconceivable in a situation where the ruling party has a need to arrest dissent.

Reformers in the party fear the worst and reformists close to but outside the party—such as Mr Stefan Bratkowski, the president of the union of journalists, are understood to be in hiding. A full scale confrontation will mean a continuation of the intermittent programme and precious little comfort for the reform movement in Poland.

Polish crisis, page 8



Mr Livingstone outlining his options yesterday: "We have three months to save London Transport."

## Mellish decision to stay delights Foot

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Robert Mellish, the former Labour MP, who rewarded Mr Michael Foot for his recent offensive against the far left by announcing last night that he would not resign as MP for Southwark, Bermondsey, and precipitate a potentially disastrous by-election for the party.

With the decision of Bermondsey Labour Party last night to stand by Mr Peter Tatchell, as prospective parliamentary candidate to succeed Mr Mellish, Mr Foot, the party leader, expects there to be a long and bruising struggle between the local party and the national executive committee which has refused to endorse Mr Tatchell.

Mr Mellish's decision, cheered loudly when it was announced, was a victory for the parliamentary party, gives Mr Foot at least some time to try to resolve the crisis.

Mr Mellish's statement came during a parliamentary party debate on the state of the party in which one speaker after another rose to attack Mr Wedgwood Benn for his recent speeches for allying himself with the far left.

Mr Foot challenged Mr Benn to name Labour MPs whom Mr Benn had claimed in a speech in Bermondsey on Tuesday night, had threatened to defect to the Social Democrats when Mr Foot disavowed Mr Tatchell.

The debate opened with an emotional speech by Mr Laurence Pavit who told of the difficulties he had been facing from enemies in his constituency, Brent, South.

He said that Mr Benn was an articulate, able man who had done much for the party, but his two loyalties, to the party in the country and the parliamentary party, were causing great stress.

## Car blast blamed on Iran agents

By Nazhir Teimourian

The car bomb which exploded in London last Sunday, killing two Iranians and seriously injuring a third, was being carried by Iranian Government agents with the aim of killing supporters of the anti-Khomeini Mujahedin guerrillas who were gathered at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park. It was claimed yesterday by exiled representatives of the Mujahedin.

They cited the explosion as the latest example of attacks on them by the Iranian Government and produced apparently genuine documents indicating that a campaign of sabotage and violence was being organised by Tehran against exiled opponents of the regime.

A spokesman for the Iranian Embassy in London denied the allegations. He said Mr Kurosh Fulaei, the wounded driver of the car, had been dismissed from his post as a doorman at the embassy on November 25 for "lack of discipline".

He added that if any money had been sent abroad from Tehran for sabotage, none of it had reached London.

# Fares will jump, GLC warns

By Frances Gibb and David Walker

The Greater London Council is to urge Parliament to pass emergency legislation to override the effect of the mammoth ruling by the Law Lords yesterday that its "fares fair" scheme was illegal.

Predicting that London's transport system would suffer devastating damage in the wake of the ruling, Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the council, said he was seeking immediate meetings with Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport.

"We have three months in which to save London Transport," Mr Livingstone said. Without legislation by March 21, there could be a 200 per cent rise in fares, loss of 15,000 jobs (one quarter) in London Transport, and the scrapping of whole bus and underground routes; in sum, a "major and drastic contraction of transport in London".

But Mr Howell yesterday placed responsibility for clearing up the confusion on the shoulders of the GLC. They must clear up the mess, he said. He repeated the problems it presented London Transport but added: "This crisis is entirely the fault of the GLC who have managed to 'sever' months of folly to create financial chaos."

The reaction of Sir Peter Masefield, chairman of London Transport, was that Londoners would face an increase of 150 per cent on March 21. The result could be a loss of passengers of between 30 and 50 per cent.

The five Law Lords, Lord Wilford, Lord Bridge, Lord Goff, Lord Griffiths and Lord Nourse, upheld a Court of Appeal ruling that the GLC acted unlawfully in levying an extra 5.1p rate to pay for a cut of one quarter in bus and underground fares. Both the council and the London Transport Executive were in clear breach of their fiduciary duty to the ratepayers, they said.

The appeal was dismissed and total costs of £100,000 have to be borne by the GLC and London Transport jointly.

The Prime Minister immediately welcomed the ruling and said the GLC's action in cutting fares was clearly a breach of its duty to London ratepayers and wrong in law. The Government would need time to consider the long judgment and would not rush into any instant solution or action.

But the ruling was attacked by Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition leader, who predicted it would have very serious consequences for travellers in London, and there were clashes between MPs when Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Tottenham, claimed the judgment was "an extra-parliamentary political decision" and would be seen by Londoners as political bias.

In judgments that will reverse the way London Transport has been run for a decade, the Lords said the transport system should be run on businesslike lines and should strive to break even. Only on that basis could the GLC subsidise it.

The Transport Act 1969, Lord Scarman said, required the London Transport Executive to "follow so far as is practicable, a financial policy of break-even". It had a duty to "set it was run on business."

In the meantime, the supplementary rate already levied to pay for the fares cut would have to be given back to ratepayers. About £15m, or 5 per cent of the total, had so far been passed to the GLC by councils. But the administrative cost of so doing would run into "tens of thousands" per borough, he said.

The Lords' decision had implications not only for London but for other transport authorities.

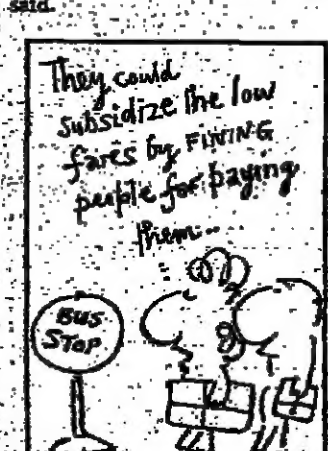
ON OTHER PAGES	
Doubt on refunds and other reactions	2
Law Report	4
Parliamentary report	9
Whither London Transport?	11
Leading article	13

principles to ensure, "so far as practicable, that no avoidable loss falls on the ratepayers."

The Act, he said, did not entitle the GLC and LT executive to "accept as an objective of policy a deficit," merely because it best meets what they regard as the interests of the travelling public and transport needs.

The Conservative-controlled Bromley Borough Council, which challenged the extra rate was jubilant at the decision. Mr Dennis Barlow, leader of the council, said: "What has been seen today is the full paucity of the law at work in our society, which is a democracy under the law."

The GLC is to call a full meeting of the council on January 12 to discuss the implications of the ruling. But Mr Livingstone yesterday reiterated the council's determination to press ahead with the cheaper fares policy. "The Labour group is determined to stay in office and fight to implement our manifesto," he said.



Without emergency legislation, London Transport's £70m deficit would have to be offset either by a supplementary rate, probably of around 5p, which almost matches the 5.1p rate challenged by Bromley. "So Londoners will still face a supplementary rate increase, but they will not have cheaper fares," he said.

Alternatively, London Transport would have to be given a substantial loan from central Government, which would be paid off over a period by increasing fares and cutting services.

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The Lords' decision had implications not only for London but for other transport authorities.

The Monarch of the Glen. Painted by John Miller about 1850. The original has been in the care of Dewar's (Founded 1846) for many years.

Dewar's

FIRST TO BOTTLE THE SPIRIT OF SCOT



## GLC in crisis

## Doubt on ratepayers' refunds

Ratepayers will have to wait several weeks before they know if the Lords' decision means refunds or, conceivably, extra rates.

Mr David Hopkins, treasurer of the City of Westminster Borough Council, which is taking a leading part in deciding the decision on behalf of the London Boroughs Association, said yesterday: "I will be doing everything I can to ensure refunds; but until legal implications and information on financial consequences are available, ratepayers will have to bear with me."

This much seems clear. The Lords ruled illegal the 6.1p supplementary rate (expressed in pence a pound of rateable value). The £15m of that precept, collected by the GLC before Lord Denning's decision, ought to be refunded to the borough councils which collected it.

Meanwhile the boroughs will continue to pay to the GLC the money collected on behalf of the Inner London Education Authority. So far only £5m of the £35m demanded by the authority has been raised; but most boroughs are paying the authority in instalments and will chase their ratepayers for the appropriate amounts.

The arithmetic of the GLC's supplementary rate was as follows. The boroughs were asked to pay the equivalent of 15.6p a pound; the GLC added for 11.5p and the LEA 4.7p.

Of the GLC's precept, 6.1p was to cover the fares subsidy and certain other items and 5.8p was to cover the deficit drawn by the Department of the Environment of rate support grant because the GLC was overspending.

Paradoxically, the GLC could benefit by the restoration of the cash equivalent of that 5.8p (about £100m) by the Government. The Department of the Environment confirmed last night that such a refund was theoretically possible if the GLC, by withdrawing its subsidy to London Transport, was within the spending target given it by the department.

Whether the GLC now refunds to the boroughs the precept it collected for fares depends on whether it attempts to raise a fresh supplementary rate. When the boroughs receive such a refund they have to decide how to recompense ratepayers.

**Fare rises: 150pc blow for London**

Londoners face an unprecedented 150 per cent fare increase on bus and Underground services after yesterday's Lords' decision, London Transport said yesterday. The result could be a loss of between 30 and 50 per cent of passengers.

At a hurriedly convened press conference after the judgment was announced, Sir Peter Masefield, chairman of London Transport, described the likely impact on services as harsh. He said new legislation might be needed in view of the Lords' "surprising" interpretation of the Transport (London) Act, 1969.

"It appears that the judgment means that a substantial increase in fares will be inevitable. If these changes have to be implemented as soon as practicable they must seriously undermine the standard of public transport in London."

Other effects would include a cut in staff of 1,500, about 3 per cent of the workforce, through natural wastage.

Reports by Michael Bailey, Marcel Berlins, David Felton, David Nicholson-Lord, Arthur Osman and David Walker.

London Transport leaders that comprises the £67m raised by the supplementary rate for the last three months of 1981 and about £30m for the first quarter of next year. London Transport's projected deficit for next year is £334m on expenditure of £713m. Of the deficit, £125m was due to the cheap fares policy, with the remainder coming from other service increases.

Mr Ian Phillips, the London Transport board member for finance and planning, estimated that fare increases of 150 per cent, either introduced in one stage next March or in



Sir Peter Masefield: "Substantial increase inevitable."

instalments, would cut the number of passengers by between 30 and 50 per cent. But since there was no precedent for such an increase, he emphasized that this was a "very good" guess.

Since the fare was cut in October, travel on the Underground has increased by about 7 per cent and on the buses by about 11 per cent.

Bus traffic is 1 per cent higher than forecast and receipts have dropped by only 19.5 per cent, compared with the 22.5 per cent predicted. On the Underground receipts have dropped by 27.5 per cent in line with forecasts.

Sir Peter and his colleagues are clearly worried about one possible interpretation of the words in the judgment that London Transport must not intend to make a loss in framing its budget.

Sir Peter said that could mean London Transport must aim to break even without taking grant into consideration, a condition he described as "far harsher than imposed on any other major urban transport organization in the world."

He added that that interpretation was probably not intended by those who drafted the 1969 Act. It means that the whole approach towards transport in London and in major urban centres in this country needs re-examination as to whether what Parliament intended is now being achieved."

The object of the fare increase would be to break even by the end of 1983, when there would be a further increase to take account of inflation.

Sir Peter called on the Government to provide more money for public transport. The cost of changing back-ticker machines is likely to be several hundred thousand pounds; it was made clear yesterday. No season tickets will now be issued for longer than three months and payment of refunds is being suspended.

## Provinces: New safeguard on subsidies likely

Confusion reigned yesterday in transport underwriting throughout Britain as a result of the Lords' ruling. Almost all are subsidized, and an early effect of the ruling seems likely to be legislation to ensure that the subsidies remain legal.

Three Acts will have to be closely scrutinized: the Transport (London) Act, 1969, for London Transport; the Transport Act, 1968, for public transport in provincial conurbation and shire counties; and the Railways Act, 1974, for British Rail.

The first two were framed when transport finance was much more under control than now. In the light of the new ruling they appear no longer to cover requirements.

But even without new legislation an early effect of the ruling, whatever the GLC may say, could be to transfer ultimate control of London Transport back to central government, where it was before the 1969 Act. That may happen if London Transport runs out of money before March, when new higher fares come into effect, and the GLC does not have the funds to support them.

In such circumstances the GLC is empowered to authorize the transport authorities to raise loans. But because of the GLC's precarious financial conditions, members may well demand government guarantees before granting them. And the Government, the price of such guarantees, would certainly require London Transport to follow policies it approved of, which would be very different from those of the GLC.

Government policy in recent years has been to subsidize local buses and trams are acceptable provided they are neither excessive nor indiscriminate. The Lords appear to have found that the GLC policy was both.

London Transport stands to lose £125m a year because of the ruling but does not expect serious cash-flow difficulties until next month. That is when it may need loans.

Political reaction last night in the West Midlands, Merseyside and South Yorkshire was cautious; although those authorities subsidize public transport from the rates, they work under statutes different from the GLC's.

The West Midlands County Council, which Labour took over last May, raised a supplementary rate totalling 14p in the pound to cover a 23 per cent cut in bus fares.

But Mr Gordon Morgan, the council leader, said yesterday that he had consulted the Association of Metropolitan Authorities in London that the Lords' decision did not directly affect the West Midlands.

**Ministry: 'Block grants are vindicated'**

Sources high in the Department of the Environment last night hailed the Lords' decision as a vindication of the much criticized block grant introduced by the Government in 1980.

Three of the five Law Lords made specific reference to the Greater London Council proceeding with its scheme to cut fares in full knowledge that by doing so the council would lose £100m or more in government grants.

Lord Wilberforce had noted that in disregarding the effects on the GLC's block grant it had breached its fiduciary duty to hold a fair balance for ratepayers. Lords Diplock and Brandon also mentioned the block grant.

A similar point was made in a statement by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport. The block grant created pressures against overspending; by ignoring them and choosing to load the burden on to ratepayers, the GLC had been reckless, he said.

Under the block grant system the Government assesses the need of local authorities to spend on such services as transport, and assigns them grants and guidelines accordingly. The Transport Department had calculated that the GLC ought to subsidize London Transport by about £75m.

"The Government has always opposed indiscriminate subsidies and wholly uneconomic cuts in fares," Mr Howell said.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the GLC, said yesterday that the Lords' judgement would allow the Labour Party to make transport a key issue in the London borough elections next May.

Members of the ruling group of Labour councillors at County Hall acknowledged that few issues could compel as much unity in their ranks as the fares issue. Mr Andrew McIntosh, the Labour leader, deposited by Mr Livingstone after last May's GLC elections, was an author and advocate of the policy of cutting fares and increasing the rates subsidy to London Transport.

Mr McIntosh, absent yesterday on business in Vienna, is known to think that sensible leadership by Mr Livingstone could secure from him the full backing of his fellow Labour councillors and 131, possibly for many months, the prospect of further defections by Labour members to the social democrats.

Mr Livingstone yesterday claimed the support of social democrats and Liberals in campaigning for new legislation on London Transport. Recently Mr Adrian Slade, the GLC's Liberal councillor, deplored the action taken by Bromley council.

## Trade unions: Action to fight redundancies

Transport unions last night combined to condemn the Lords' decision. They are due to meet on Tuesday to decide what action to take.

That meeting could be influenced by statements from the Transport and General Workers' Union, the country's largest, which said yesterday that any redundancies caused by the ruling would be opposed by industrial action if necessary.

Mr William Morris, the union's national officer for busmen, said: "We think this is bad news for London, but we will not accept any redundancies for people who travel by London Transport."

"London Transport has said that it could mean 15,000 redundancies if it went back to the pre-October situation. We will not accept any redundancies," Mr Morris said.

He said that transport policies operated by local authorities in other parts of the country were open to challenge. The union had estimated that 50,000 jobs could be at risk if the Lords' judgment was carried through across the country.

Mr Sidney Weithell, general secretary of the 180,000-member National Union of Railwaymen, who organize many workers on the Underground, said last night: "Both the Government and judges are determined to prevent us running intelligent services."

Mr Donald Pallen, deputy general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, the train drivers union, said that the decision was "a disaster."

He did not specify the groups under investigation but it is known that the principal organization is the New York-based Irish Northern Ad Com. Known as Noraid.

The British Government has frequently complained to Washington about the activities of Noraid, which channelled more than \$250,000 to the Provisional IRA during the first half of this year when the Maze hunger strike was receiving wide publicity in the United States.

The Justice Department has said that Noraid is "an agent of the IRA" and in October one of the trustees, Mr Michael Flannery, was arrested in New York on charges of conspiring to ship guns to the IRA.

During his visit to London and Dublin, Mr Clark met senior members of the British and Irish intelligence services. During the interview, Mr Clark repeated a remark about the unification of Northern Ireland with the South which caused controversy during his Irish tour, but emphasized: "This is an observation which is widely held in America, and is not American policy."

**The law: Words that define the GLC's duty**

Lawyers advising provincial transport authorities will be anxiously studying the judgment to see whether they, too, might eventually be put in the same position as the GLC.

Section 1 of the Transport (London) Act places a duty on the GLC to develop policies and to encourage, organize and, where appropriate, carry out measures, which will promote the provision of integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services for Greater London.

Section 5 of the Act places a duty on the London Transport Executive to have "due regard to efficiency, economy and safety of operation" when providing a transport system.

All the Law Lords concluded (though in slightly different ways) that the words "efficiency, economy and safety" meant that London Transport had to strive to "balance its books, to look at its operations in a businesslike way. That they said, had not been done."

The Transport Act, 1968, does not have the equivalent of the London Act's section 1, but it does have a provision (section 9(3)) putting a duty on passenger transport authorities outside London to have "due regard to... economy and safety of operation" very similar wording to that which affects London Transport.

## Ghost town streets of Belfast come alive

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The queue of cars waiting to enter Belfast city centre would have most motorists impatiently tapping the steering-wheel, but for Mr William Hamilton, manager of the Abercrombie Cabaret in Castle Street, the long delay is a delight.

For it means that a brave attempt to lure people back to the centre of the city at night is being made. Four nights ago, for the first time since 1974, private cars were allowed through the security gates to park unattended in city centre streets.

Of course, they are still stopped and searched before entering the security zone, and vehicles must be out by 2 am. But it is a step forward to what the city council predicts will be a "brighter Belfast."

Everyone, from the security forces to hardpressed businessmen who have seen takings at clubs and public houses in the area plummet, are hoping that no discordant incident will end the experiment.

Mr Hamilton is among those who confidently expect the people of Belfast to revert to their night-time pursuits in the city centre now they can use their cars.

Because of repeated car bombings city centre streets in Belfast took on the eerie atmosphere of a ghost town when private cars were banned in 1974.

When people ventured out it was often to cinemas and clubs, but outside the security zone. On the first night of the trial period about a hundred cars were brought into the centre, and in the days before Christmas that number is expected to increase.

Mr Hamilton manages the club above the restaurant where two people died and 130 were injured when a bomb exploded without warning in 1972. He said yesterday: "Usually I have a pass and can get through the security barriers quickly, but there was a long queue on that first night."

"I was delighted, as it means, I hope, that Belfast will come alive again in the evening. It's been a difficult period, with sometimes as few as six people in the club at night."

Tougher action is planned against American support groups which raise funds for the IRA. The IRA has been in violence in Northern Ireland (Nicholas Ashford writes from Washington).

That was made clear during an interview given to The Times by Mr William Clark, the Deputy Secretary of State. While emphasizing that there was no question of direct American involvement, Mr Clark said the United States was investigating the activities of support groups, which were supplying aid to terrorist organizations.

Asked what the aim of these investigations was, he replied that it was to expose them and stop them supplying funds to terrorist groups.

He did not specify the groups under investigation but it is known that the principal organization is the New York-based Irish Northern Ad Com. Known as Noraid.

The British Government has frequently complained to Washington about the activities of Noraid, which channelled more than \$250,000 to the Provisional IRA during the first half of this year when the Maze hunger strike was receiving wide publicity in the United States.

The Justice Department has said that Noraid is "an agent of the IRA" and in October one of the trustees, Mr Michael Flannery, was arrested in New York on charges of conspiring to ship guns to the IRA.

During his visit to London and Dublin, Mr Clark met senior members of the British and Irish intelligence services. During the interview, Mr Clark repeated a remark about the unification of Northern Ireland with the South which caused controversy during his Irish tour, but emphasized: "This is an observation which is widely held in America, and is not American policy."

**Engineering chiefs seek tougher labour laws**

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Engineering employers are going for a tougher policy on labour law with hopes that the political emergence of the Social Democrats will prevent any form of repeal of the legislation by a future Labour administration.

The influential Engineering Employers' Federation is pushing for an amendment to the impending trade union Bill so that companies would be free to suspend employees without pay during strikes involving only a few people.

Mr Anthony Frodsham, retiring director-general of the EEF, said yesterday: "All things change with time. It seems at least possible that in the past few months we have seen the beginning of a fundamental transformation of British politics and society."

It seems now that three million unemployed will not lead to the return of a Labour government subservient to the union interest.

"Unions may not be able quite so easily to ensure the repeal of legislation which they do not like. If this proves to be so, our industry, economy and society may reap great benefits."

The EEF is to put its views to Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, on measures for labour law "with renewed hope that permanent union reform may at last come about as a result of the rise to power, or at least to a share of power, of a central political force."

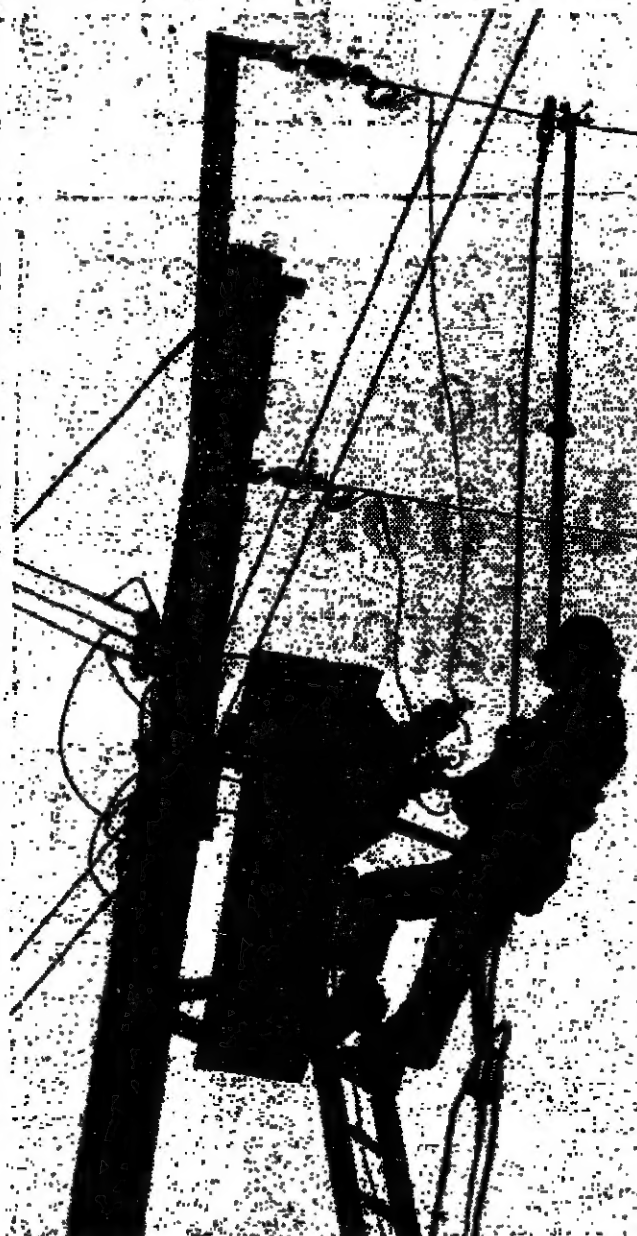
Mr Frodsham denied that the EEF advocated support for the Social Democrats.

"The EEF is disappointed that Mr Tebbit has not taken up its key proposal on industrial relations legislation. We want a lay-off clause which would help to redress the imbalance of power between organized labour and employers without involving legal penalties against individuals," he said.

"We envisage a measure to enable an employer to lay off his workforce without pay, but with safeguards, during a dispute whether or not this is expressly provided for in the contract of employment."

That would protect employers whose businesses are paralysed through action by a small group of employees. The EEF believes that such a provision would deter irresponsible militancy.

Mr Frodsham concluded: "The Government should have the courage to take this reasonable step now."



Mr Philip Thorne repairing electricity lines for the fifth consecutive day in Somerset yesterday.

## Power back in South but freeze goes on

Most of the homes in south-west England blacked out by the blizzards had their power restored yesterday.

Only about 800 homes in Somerset, 200 in Devon and 70 in Cornwall were still in the dark last night, and the South Western Electricity Board hopes to restore all supplies by tonight.

Excessive speed was blamed yesterday for accidents in which 42 cars and lorries crashed in freezing fog on the M1 near Alfreton, Derbyshire. The motorway in Derbyshire between junctions 28 and 29 was closed for three hours and with thousands of cars waiting in three lanes.

Derbyshire police said: "Motorists were driving too quickly and too close to the vehicles in front and were unable to readjust when they ran into patches of fog. It was sheer madness."

A father and son were found unconscious from the cold in their parked car yesterday. Mr Christopher Young, aged 37 and his son Martin, aged 15, of York, had been in the car for nine hours.

They were taken to Hull Royal Infirmary, where the boy recovered fairly quickly; Mr Young was detained with hypothermia.

In North Wales the Horseshoe pass, near Llangollen, Clwyd, and the A5104 Chester to Corwen road at Brynagor were still blocked by snow yesterday. Hundreds of old people have been housebound for more than a week because frozen snow has not been removed from pavements.

Burst pipes have caused a water shortage in the West of England and in south Cheshire. A Down's syndrome boy aged eight died in south Wiltshire after his father carried him through a blizzard this week from a snowbound car to his isolated home, an inquest was told yesterday. Mark Meyer had to be carried because of his fear of snow, but he struggled and his clothes became soaked. A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

**Mortgage change**

By Lorna Bourke

Tax relief on mortgage repayments is to be simplified from April 1, 1983, when repayments will be made net of basic rate tax relief. Repayments are made gross at present, and relief claimed from the Inland Revenue.

That can lead to delays of several months, but under the new system relief, at the basic rate, will be deducted from repayments as soon as the borrower starts to pay. Higher rate taxpayers will claim the extra relief in the usual way.

Announcing the changes yesterday, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Government had no intention of restricting the amount of relief to which taxpayers are entitled. Legislation will be introduced in the 1982 Finance Bill and the change will mean a cut in Inland Revenue staff of about 1,000.

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Mr Frodsham denied that the EEF advocated support for the Social Democrats.

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## 'PICKETS FOLLOWED TAX CHIEF'

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

The head of Scotland's tax collection centre claimed yesterday that car loads of pickets attempted to stop him posting cheques worth millions of pounds to the Exchequer in the civil servants' dispute earlier this year.

Mr Andrew McMaster, senior principal officer of the Inland Revenue offices in Edinburgh, which handles up to £500m of tax cheques daily, told Edinburgh Sheriff Court that he was followed from Edinburgh to Glasgow by three cars on the motorway.

Mr McMaster was giving evidence at the trial of Mr Ted Elsey, aged 37, a union official of Hogarth Road, Crawley, Sussex, who has denied a conspiracy of the Inland Revenue and Protection of Property Act, 1977.

He has denied two charges alleging that he followed two officers of the Inland Revenue in the service car to collect the mail from the head offices in Glasgow.

On April 6 he returned to Edinburgh with the mail and with a colleague, Mr James Rose, intended to post the cheques.

He claimed that he crossed the picket line outside the Inland Revenue offices and became aware that a convoy of cars was following them.

Mr McMaster denied that the EEF advocated support for the Social Democrats.

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That would protect employers whose businesses are paralysed through action by a small group of employees. The EEF believes that such a provision would deter irresponsible militancy.

Mr Frodsham concluded: "The Government should have the courage to take this reasonable step now."

## Science report

## Monitoring global climate and pollution

By Tony Sansting

The Stockholm Conference of 1972 was the first international attempt to coordinate environmental activities of nations on a regional and global scale. With the tenth anniversary of that massive bureaucratic upheaval imminent, scientists and statesmen are meeting for the first round of meetings to assess and celebrate their achievements to date.

Accordingly, Dr M D Gwynne, of the United Nations Environment Programme, itself a product of the Stockholm Conference, presented a paper to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences last month in which he described his agency's efforts to compile data on the environment, vital for conservationists to avoid speaking in windy generalities.

The popularized assessment of the rate at which tropical rainforests are disappearing—fifty-five hectares an acre the size of Regent's Park—is the most notorious example.

The Global Environment Monitoring System, granted the status of a permanent agency in 1978, is in effect a scientific accounting system that gathers the globe in search of data from which reliable generalizations can be made. From its headquarters in Nairobi it coordinates a network of monitoring projects in strictly defined categories, many of them operated by United Nations agencies.

"The emphasis," Dr Gwynne said last month, "is always on data quality rather than data quantity."

The broad areas of monitoring are climate, population, health, oceans and land.

Dr Gwynne reported that more than seventy countries are involved in an atmospheric monitoring programme with more than a hundred sampling stations measuring rainfall, solar radiation, trace gases, aerosols and other possible climatic determinants.

An inventory of the world's glaciers, which are melting at about 750 in 21 countries, takes advantage of the fact that "fluctuations of glacial snow and ice-masses... tend themselves more readily to monitoring than many other parts of the climate system."

Long-range pollutants, particularly sulphur dioxide, are measured by a network of 50 stations in 18 European countries, which is expected to spread to Latin America, the "phenomenon," said Gwynne, "is more completely understood."

Similar sampling stations monitor air and water quality and food contaminants; 300 stations in 70 countries concentrate on the public health aspects of rivers, lakes and ground waters, "which are the major source for municipal supplies, irrigation, livestock and selected industries."

The monitoring is still in its infancy, with pilot projects in the study of oil pollution and some of the regional "clean-up" programmes, operated by the regions' secretariat in Vienna.

The most interesting of the various GEMS projects, however, are probably the techniques it has worked out for environmental mapping over land on virtually dry areas, and covering high radiation, the state of tropical forests, range lands and deserts.

**£50,000 RAID ON HOSPITAL**

Armed raiders stole £50,000 from the Midway Hospital in Cillingham, Kent, yesterday. Two men, one carrying a hand gun, squirted ammonia at security guards and made off with the hospital wages in two suitcases.

Police said they ran to a maroon Peugeot.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$2.25, Bahrain \$2.00, Canada \$2.00, Cyprus \$2.00, Denmark \$2.00, Finland \$2.00, France \$2.00, Germany \$2.00, Greece \$2.00, Ireland \$2.00, Italy \$2.00, Japan \$2.00, Korea \$2.00, Kuwait \$2.00, Lebanon \$2.00, Libya \$2.00, Luxembourg \$2.00, Malta \$2.00, Mauritius \$2.00, Mexico \$2.00, Monaco \$2.00, Morocco \$2.00, Netherlands \$2.00, New Zealand \$2.00, Norway \$2.00, Oman \$2.00, Pakistan \$2.00, Panama \$2.00, Paraguay \$2.00, Peru \$2.00, Portugal \$2.00, Qatar \$2.00, Romania \$2.00, Saudi Arabia \$2.00, Singapore \$2.00, South Africa \$2.00, Spain \$2.00, Sweden \$2.00, Switzerland \$2.00, Taiwan \$2.00, Thailand \$2.00, Turkey \$2.00, Uganda \$2.00, United Kingdom \$2.00, United States \$2.00, Uruguay \$2.00, Venezuela \$2.00, Zaire \$2.00.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Case lost by computer pools man

Mr Michael Hayward, aged 31, a computer analyst, of Down Hatherley, near Cheltenham, who was dismissed for using his employer's computer to work out football pool permutations, was not unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal has decided. The decision, reached after three hearings at Gloucester, was by a majority of two to one.

## 39 months' jail for travel agent

William Sherrard, aged 45, a travel agent, swindled the members of an Essex school band out of £23,000, Wood Green, Crown Court, in London, was told yesterday. He accepted cash for a booking from Chafford School, Rainham, Kent, to visit San Bernardino County, in the United States, but bought no tickets. The travel agent used the money instead to pay other debts.

## Jesus claimants' testimony fails

Twenty people claiming to be Jesus Christ have asked for £30,000 left by Mr Ernest Digweed, of St. Michael Road, Portsmouth, who was found dead four years ago in a tent in his sitting room. He said in his will that the money was for the Son of God to use at the second coming.

## GPs' sick note threat dropped

A threat by family doctors to stop signing workers' sick notes from the new year was called off yesterday. The threat was part of a British Medical Association campaign to stop sick notes for the first seven days of illness.

## Gallantry award for BR worker

Mr Tommy Hague, aged 45, a British Rail fork lift truck driver, and his wife, after Sir Peter Parker, the railways chairman, had presented Mr Hague yesterday with a new award, the Chairman's Award for Gallantry. Mr Hague rescued a colleague trapped in a British Rail engine works fire at Norwich. The rescued man died later.

## Printer dodged fares for 9 years

Eric Thompson, a printer, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, dodged British Rail fares for more than nine years with a season ticket that had expired in February, 1972. Southern magistrates heard yesterday. He was fined £500, with £20 costs, and ordered to pay £1,500 compensation.

## Two escaped prisoners are recaptured

Two escaped prisoners, described by the police as dangerous, have been recaptured. George Lomax and Derek Wallbanks escaped from a police van near Newcastle upon Tyne three weeks ago while on their way to court. Lomax was recaptured in London and Wallbanks on Tyneside.

## Tory in jail break

Mr Daniel George, a Conservative councillor, became the first prisoner in Rotherham's new police station yesterday when he was accidentally locked in the cells while inspecting the building. The door had to be removed to release him.

## Underground dumping of atom waste dropped

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government has abandoned a controversial programme of geological tests to establish the feasibility of storing nuclear waste underground and appears to have put off a decision on such storage for decades.

High-level radioactive waste from power stations will instead be stored as a glass compound on the surface at British Nuclear Fuels' Sellafield plant, in Cumbria.

The Government's volte-face has been greeted with delight by the group which has opposed the programme of drilling 15 test boreholes to investigate the suitability of geological strata for storage.

Friends of the Earth Scotland described it yesterday as "their greatest ever victory".

The decision has, however, stunned and bemused many scientists involved with the programme, who for the past five years have been supporting the Government's insistence that the tests were necessary and that underground storage was likely to be the safest long-term method of disposal.

Since the programme started in 1975 only one borehole has been drilled because of intense local opposition to each proposal to drill.

In announcing the decision, however, Mr Tom King, Minister for the Environment, claimed that work overseas had established that underground storage was in principle feasible.

Desk studies and laboratory work would continue in the United Kingdom to confirm the applicability of overseas work, he said, "but exploratory drilling will not be needed for this purpose".

A demonstration under-

ground disposal facility, which under present plans would have been built in the late 1990s, would not be constructed, Mr King said. Instead, Britain would study such facilities in Sweden, Canada, Belgium and the United States.

The decision, he said, "does not mean that further geological fieldwork would not be useful and, indeed, possibly necessary for decisions which may have to be taken at some future date... but it does not have any present priority".

Appeals and applications for planning permission to drill at sites in Scotland, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Somerset, Hertfordshire and Gloucestershire, among others, will be withdrawn.

In justifying the decision Mr King quoted from a report by the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee earlier this year, which said that serious consideration should be given to storing the waste on the surface for 50 years, possibly much longer. That would allow more of the heat to dissipate, making eventual underground storage easier.

Mr King's decision was criticized yesterday by a senior member of the advisory committee, Dr Stanley Bowie, a leading geologist, who said "far more emphasis has been given to that paragraph of the report than should have been. The thing has been warped". Because of the opposition to the drilling, the paragraph had been "picked out and greeted with an enormous sigh of relief".

The committee had, however, in the same report, firmly endorsed the government's previous policy of "pursuing

vigorously" the options for disposal, including underground disposal.

"As far as I can see this is simply delaying the obvious, putting off for a very long time work which should be doing today. What we will need is site-specific information, not general information from desk studies. They are not going to tell us any more about United Kingdom geology than we know already."

Overseas work might not be directly applicable in the United Kingdom, he said. Sweden's geology, for example, was totally different from Britain's.

Dr Bowie said it was his personal view that underground storage was the safest form of disposal. It removed radioactive waste from the immediate environment, reduced the risk of leaks, or of aircraft crashing on to it, and even of terrorist activity.

The Natural Environment Research Council, which runs the programme for the Government, protested yesterday that it had not been consulted on the decision. It would want to advise ministers on the work that would be needed to be done before the council could form a fair view on the feasibility of underground disposal.

Under the programme, it now remains, work will continue on ocean disposal of high level waste, and the Government will publish a White Paper on priorities for waste disposal.

Work will also continue on turning the radioactive waste into glass for storage. That would be a necessary step before underground disposal, and a safer method of storing the waste on the surface.

## Heseltine's house sale move 'unreasonable'

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was accused yesterday of acting "unreasonably and therefore unlawfully" in deciding to take over council house sales in Norwich.

Mr Nigel Macleod, QC, for Norwich City Council, claimed that the minister had acted as no reasonable minister would have acted. He said Mr Heseltine had taken the "drastic steps" open to him under Section 23 of the Housing Act 1980, without giving the council a chance to present its case.

The Labour-controlled council is seeking court orders to quash Mr Heseltine's decision to take over council house sales, and to prevent him from acting on his decision. The application is being heard by Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Goff, and is opposed by the minister.

Mr Heseltine decided to send in a team of officials after accusing the council of "dragging its heels" over selling council houses.

Mr Macleod argued in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court that the powers given to a minister to take over council house sales had to be exercised very carefully.

Lord Justice Donaldson said that, as he understood the law, the question was whether the minister's decision was one which could properly be taken under the Act.

Mr Macleod said: "The city council has made no secret of its view that the legislation providing for the sale of council houses is unwise; but equally it has disregarded that in the way it has carried out its duties."

It regards itself as a responsible authority and has

every intention of complying with the law.

He said the legislation would mean the disposal of about £20m of housing in the council's area. The council wanted to handle sales carefully to avoid problems in the future.

The council controlled about 25,000 houses, half the city's total housing. It had no previous experience of house selling and sales proceeded slowly while an organization to undertake the task was set up. The level of sales had greatly improved recently.

Mr Macleod said the council had acted reasonably while Mr Heseltine had not. He had failed to consider the council's responsibilities other than house selling when assessing progress.

The council disputed the minister's contention that the district valuer should help to speed up sales. It would be unlawful to use his services because it would be his duty to arbitrate in disputes which might arise over sales.

Lord Justice Donaldson observed that every appeal so far against values set by the city council on houses to be sold off had been successful and the values had consequently been reduced.

Mr Simon Brown, opening the case for the minister, said Mr Heseltine's powers to intervene in Norwich did not depend on the failure of the city council to meet its obligations, but rather on an assessment of the problems facing the tenants who wanted to buy their homes.

The minister had to look for yardsticks as to whether the tenants were having difficulty in exercising their rights to buy cheaply.

The case continues today.

## Cash threat to £300m station plan

By Hugh Clayton

Environment Correspondent

British Rail disclosed yesterday that its £300m development plan for Liverpool Street station, in London, might have to be cancelled for lack of funds. The latest version of the project has also run into new trouble with conservationists, who consider it the largest building project in the City since restoration after the Great Fire of 1666.

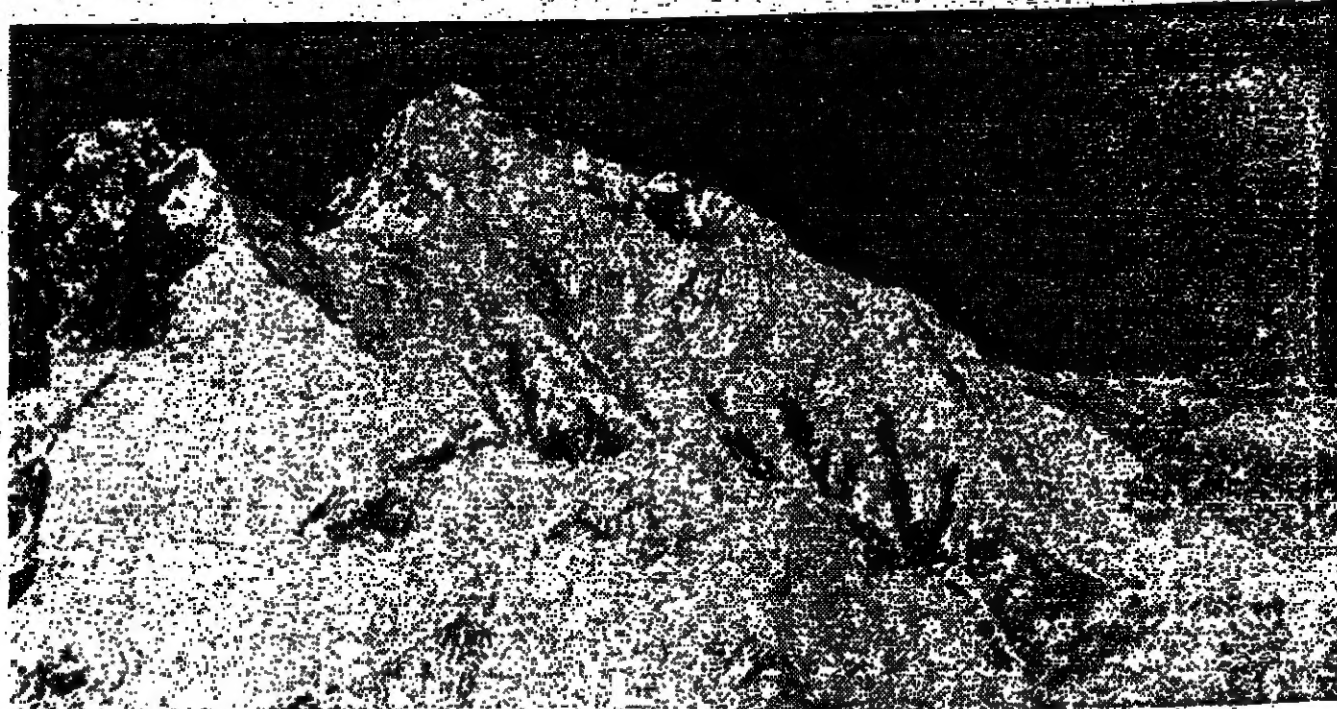
There is one remaining hurdle, and that is the question of raising the money. The British Rail Board said yesterday, "It is at a crucial stage and there are a number of balls in the air. We hope they will come down early in the new year."

The aim is to meet most of the cost through a vast commercial development rising to twice the height of the nineteenth-century Great Eastern Hotel, which will be preserved next to an enlarged station. The new complex will cover the site of Broad Street station, which will be demolished.

The 25-acre development site will be dominated by an enlarged, modernized Liverpool Street station.

A new feature of the plans is a proposal to dismantle the long Victorian "nave" over platforms 9 to 11, and replace it in two shorter pieces. "We are splitting it in half and putting it over four of today's platforms instead of two", the board said.

Mr John Cheshire, secretary of the preservation group which opposed the development plan in the 1970s, said dismantling the "nave" amounted to demolishing a listed building, and might be "technically disastrous".



The target: Everest from the south, with the east-north-east ridge on the skyline, right.

## British team to climb Everest Alpine-style

By Ronald Fair

Chris Bonington, who led the successful British expedition to Everest, in western China, in 1975, is preparing for an Alpine-style attempt on the mountain next year. With three other climbers, Mr Bonington is to try the unclimbed east-north-east ridge that leads from Chinese territory to the 29,028ft summit.

It will be one of the smallest teams ever to visit the north side of the mountain. The climbers will rely on their own resources to establish camps, carry loads, and fix ropes. Oxygen cylinders will be taken to base camp, but they hope to reach the summit without using them.

Mr Bonington, aged 47, was

climbing leader of last year's successful expedition to Mount Kongur, in western China, which was sponsored by Jardine Matheson, the Far East trading company, who are also supporting the Everest attempt.

With him will be Peter Boardman, director of the International School of Mountaineering at Llysio, Switzerland; Dick Renshaw, aged 31, a painter and decorator from Cardiff, who has climbed extensively in the Alps and Himalayas; and Joe Tasker, aged 35, a climbing equipment specialist who has made many first ascents in the Alps.

In support will be Dr



The proposed route

Charles Clarke, medical officer, and Mr Adrian Gordon.

The British Mount Everest Expedition to China sets out next March, and marks the return after 40 years of British

climbers to the north side of the mountain. They will make the attempt before the monsoon, and hope to reach the summit early in May.

The climbers will follow the route noted in 1924 by Professor Noel Odell, a climber on the British expedition that year, when Mallory and Irvine disappeared on a neighbouring ridge of Everest.

"Odell said then that he thought the ridge would be possible, although technically more difficult than the north buttress route," Mr Bonington told The Times.

A talk Mr Bonington was to give at Chilton Hall, Rotherham, has been cancelled because of the icy weather.

## Joseph rules out early school voucher scheme

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The formidable difficulties associated with education voucher schemes, as set out yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, appear to rule out any possibility of their introduction, certainly in the near future.

Sir Keith attracted the wrath of several Conservative colleagues when he announced at the party conference in Blackpool last October that he was "intellectually attracted to the idea of education vouchers as a way of increasing parental choice of schools, although he was aware that great difficulties were involved."

Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, said any attempt to introduce such a scheme would split the Conservative Party and alienate the whole teaching profession. Under the proposed system parents would be given a voucher equal to the average cost of their child's education, which they would then be free to "spend" at the school of his or her choice.

Schools would prosper in the extent that they attracted vouchers, and would therefore have a much greater incentive than at present to satisfy parents, the scheme's advocates say.

In a Commons written reply yesterday Sir Keith announced the contents of the letter he has sent to the two main advocates of education vouchers, the National Council for Educational Standards and the Friends of the Education Voucher Experiment in Representative Regions.

In his letter Sir Keith reaffirms his attraction to education vouchers "as a means of eventually extending parental choice."

However, the difficulties needed to be "rigorously considered."

"Only if it is clearly possible to formulate a scheme which could deliver, in a way which could be commended, more benefits than are obtainable under the 1980 Act would an experiment be worth considering," he added.

The Education Act, 1980, gives parents the right to send their child to the school of their choice unless that would lead to the inefficient use of resources.

Among the main difficulties identified are the substantial extra costs involved if independent schools were included in a voucher scheme.

## State farms ruled out of Labour's land policy

From John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, Cambridge

State farms have no place in the Labour Party's plans for public ownership of agricultural land, Dr Gavin Stamp, an opposition frontbench spokesman on agriculture, said yesterday.

He also distanced himself from colleagues in favour of wholesale nationalization.

"There will never be a day when the Labour Party will go down the road to state farming," he said. But a degree of public ownership of land was the only way to halt the decline in tenancies and enable young people without the means to buy land to become farmers.

Dr Stamp told a highly sceptical audience at a conference organized by Savills, a firm of estate agents, that right-wing opinions always feared "the issue of taking about state farming, but the agricultural community had a right to see that an immensely valuable national asset was managed in its interest."

The ownership of land, by pension funds and insurance companies was as "abhorrent as state farming," he suggested. "Public ownership would assist conservation, and Exmoor was an outstanding case for nationalization to stop farmers ploughing moorland."

Fishing rights should not be sold at ridiculous prices to rich Germans and Japanese. Instead miners and bus drivers should be able to cast their votes in the locks and rivers of Scotland.

Lord Middleton, president of the Country Landowners Association, described the Labour Party as an antediluvian dinosaur which argued that the only way to pull the country out of recession was more nationalization.

The party was being taken over by the extreme left, which did not want any power, political or economic, in the hands of the individual.

No country had adopted state agriculture except under the coercion of a dictatorship, and in every case food production had become a shambles. Poland was starving and Russia was totally incapable of feeding its people.

The beauty of the private landlord and tenant system was that it was a highly sophisticated business partnership with an intimate relationship between the partners. Once the state took control, it would become the biggest absentee landlord since William the Conqueror.

## BIG SAVINGS POSSIBLE ON PENSIONS

By David Blake

Economics Editor

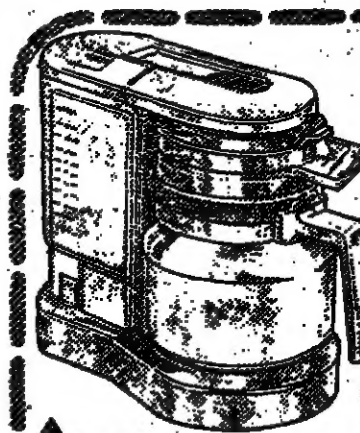
Plans to make local authority and health service employees pay more for their pensions could save the Government more than £600m a year by 1993. The savings will come if the Cabinet approves a proposal to make the 1,750,000 people in those two sectors pay an extra 2 or 3 per cent of their salary as a contribution towards their pensions.

The idea is part of the Government's response to the Scott report which looked at the implications of inflation-proofed public sector pensions. To the great annoyance of the Prime Minister, the report did not advocate breaking the public service employees' jobs. But it did say that there was a case for making them pay more.

Those covered by the latest proposal pay between 5 and 6 per cent of their salaries. That is less than the 8 to 3 per cent that is nationally deducted from the pay levels of the Civil Service for their inflation-proofed pensions. The scheme is being pushed by its backers as a way of bringing the local authorities and health service employees into line with central government.

But the fact that central civil servants do not actually hand over cash, while the rest of the public sector does, means that there is bound to be bitter union opposition to the scheme.

Matters are made more difficult by the fact that the Government wants to hold pay rises in the public sector to 4 per cent this year. The extra pension contributions would not become payable until 1993, but by then they are being considered might harden the attitudes of pay bargain-



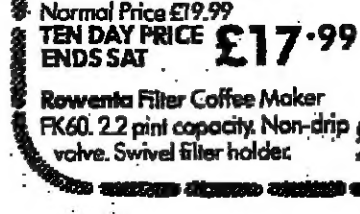
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Philips Filter Coffee Maker HD5154. 2 pint capacity. Transparent water tank. Strength selection filter. £17.99



Braun Filter Coffee Maker KF30. 1 litre capacity. FREE IRISH COFFEE SET (Direct from Braun). Normal Price £19.99. TEN DAY PRICE £17.99. ENDS SAT



Rowenta Filter Coffee Maker FK60. 2.2 pint capacity. Non-drip valve. Swivel filter holder. £22.99

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## Frost threatens Christmas sprouts supply

By Robin Young, Consumers Affairs Correspondent

There is bad news about Christmas dinner. If the cold weather continues, Brussels sprouts, which most Britons regard as an essential garnish to turkey or goose, will be missing.

The demand for Brussels sprouts, always a staple winter vegetable in Britain, trebles at Christmas. It is conservatively estimated that five out of six British families feature nobly sprouts on their Christmas Day menu.

Hard frosts have cut supplies by a quarter, and with temperatures as low as -12°C in the fields, some growers have been harvesting completely frozen crops. Sprouts are frost-proof while growing, but if picked when frozen they deteriorate rapidly.

"You can smell them going off," one New Covent Garden trader said at the market yesterday. Britain is an exporter but not an importer of sprouts, so no replenishment is available elsewhere.

Prices are already up to 30p a pound, and only a prolonged mild spell, will avert a critical shortage at Christmas.

This is not a happy season for cauliflowers either. Supplies from England, France, and the Channel Isles, are also scarce, costing up to 10p each. On the other hand, there is plenty of cabbage, possibly a dull alternative.

Swedes and turnips are also plentiful and of excellent quality. One suggestion from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau is that with carrots, onions, and leeks these might be baked to a vegetable cakewalk, a sort of trendy Woolton pie, made with Yorkshire pudding batter.

Christmas supplies of Spanish satsumas, clementines and navel oranges are also threatened. Large shipments are trapped in the French channel ports by a road transport bottleneck exacerbated by the bad weather. Despite a shorter crop, satsumas are still at about the same price as last year, 24p to 30p a pound.

Apple prices are up between 5p and 10p a pound on last year, with English Coxes from 25p and French Golden Delicious from 20p a pound. There are also amazing varieties of bright and shiny red apples imported from north America.

Mixed nuts are good value, a shortage of Brazils and walnuts being compensated by a good crop of Filberts and almonds.

There is also a wider range of exotics available than ever before. Those who miss their sprouts can compensate with lychees, kumquats, prickly pears, starfruit, Catalan salad, which looks like overgrown dandelions, and radicchio, Italian red lettuces.

## A private head for government agency

By David Walker

The next chief executive of the Property Services Agency will be a private manager, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has told his senior officials at a private meeting.

Recruiting someone from the private sector to such a senior position was not, he said, to doubt civil servants' talents and energies. Rather, the agency, the organization that lets most government buildings contracts and administers the vast estate of government buildings, "would benefit from exposure to private sector ways."

"What I would like to see," he said at meetings at the Department of the Environment, "is an injection of something only a private sector man can provide."

However, Mr Heseltine reassured his civil servants that despite the government's interest in tighter management and its desire to switch responsibility back to the private sector, they were a national asset.

"The role of the Civil Service is much misunderstood. To listen to or read a wide range of comment one would draw a conclusion that it is some avoidable and extravagant overhead."

Mr Heseltine said his civil servants made a "remarkable and indispensable contribution to the working of a civilized society."



Leading an ear: From left, Lord Snowdon, president of the International Year of Disabled People, Mr Kenneth Robinson, chairman of the Arts Council, Mr Paul Channon, Arts Minister, and Mr Frank McLoughlin listening yesterday to the new "induction loop" system at the Wigmore Hall, London, designed to help the hard of hearing who use conventional hearing aids.

## Indefinite detention for £1m arsonist

From Our Correspondent York

John Daysley, aged 18, an arsonist who stood and laughed as an incomplete £1m office complex burnt to the ground, was ordered at York Crown Court yesterday to be detained indefinitely in a high security mental hospital.

Judge Harry Bennett told Daysley, of the Boulevard Hill, "You are a danger to yourself and the public in general."

Mr Paul Miller, for the prosecution, told the court that the youth, who was fascinated by fire, reduced a five-storey complex in the centre of Hull to ashes with a match after breaking in to steal tools.

Daysley told police: "I don't know why I did it, but it made me feel good and gave a feeling of happiness. I lit some wood shavings on the floor and watched the flames dancing about. It made me feel great."

Within minutes the fire spread to piles of timber being used in the construction work and Daysley left to watch the fire from a neighbouring street before walking home.

Daysley, who admitted arson, burglary and theft, was arrested two weeks later in a stolen car. He broke down under questioning.

Dr Peter Watson-Wood, a psychiatrist who examined Daysley, told the judge that he was suffering from a psychopathic disorder.

## Cost of the NHS rises to £240 a head

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Spending on the National Health Service costs £240 a year for every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom, according to statistics published today. This is three times as high in real terms as when the service was first established. In 1949 it cost £8.75 a head, or £79 at 1981 prices.

Hospital services take the lion's share (63 per cent), with family doctors accounting for only 6.2 per cent and community services (health visitors, community nurses and midwives) absorbing 6 per cent.

Hospital doctors are the fastest growing group in the service, having increased by 3.1 per cent a year over the past five years, compared with an annual increase of 2.8 per cent for administrators, 1.7 per cent for family doctors and 1.4 per cent for nurses.

Hospital nurses are the largest group, accounting for 37 per cent of the one million people employed.

The health service absorbs about 6 per cent of the gross national product against 5.5 per cent in 1975, 4.1 per cent in 1965 and 3.6 per cent in 1953.

The analysis, carried out by the Office of Health Economics, which is funded by the pharmaceutical industry, shows that the rate of growth of the service is slowing. It grew by 4.3 per cent between 1960 and 1970 but by only 3 per cent a year in 1976-81.

Compared with other western countries, Britain continues to spend relatively little on the service. The office's latest international data (for 1979) shows that France spends 7.2 per cent of its gross national product on health and the United States 9 per cent.

The analysis, carried out by the Office of Health Economics, which is funded by the pharmaceutical industry, shows that the rate of growth of the service is slowing. It grew by 4.3 per cent between 1960 and 1970 but by only three per cent a year in the five years 1976-81.

Compendium of Health Statistics, for the Editor, Office of Health Economics, 12 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2DY, £12.

## 'Cured' man attacked housewife

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

A former Rampton patient kidnapped a young wife and tried to rape her at knife-point less than a year after doctors had declared him cured of a psychiatric disorder.

Rodney Harrison, aged 31, was jailed for 14 years by Nottingham Crown Court yesterday after admitting abduction and attempted rape.

Justice Beldam expressed concern at the case and called for an investigation into how Harrison obtained the knife.

It was the third time Harrison, of Kighley, West Yorkshire, had threatened a woman with a knife. The first was in Leeds in 1969, and in May, 1970, he was sent to Rampton top security hospital for twice raping a pregnant housewife.

Last January doctors considered him "cured" and allowed him out on a rehabilitation course at Balderton psychiatric hospital, near Newark. But in October he grabbed a housewife and forced her to drive 20 miles with a knife at her neck and breast.

Miss Heather Swindells, for the prosecution, said Harrison ordered the woman to stop and tied her hands behind her back. "He removed the lower part of her clothing, forced her to have oral sex three times, and tried to rape her."

At this point he seemed to come to his senses. He apologized and allowed her to get dressed.

## Victimized teacher gets £5,750

From Our Correspondent Sheffield

Miss Mary Faby, a former senior school mistress, who claimed she became the victim of a five-year victimization campaign after complaining that her headmaster drank on duty, has recovered £5,750 in compensation. Last month Miss Faby, aged 55, won her claim for unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal in Sheffield.

The tribunal found she had been unfairly dismissed from her teaching job at St Bernard's Roman Catholic School, Rotherham, and adjourned the case for compensation to be settled.

The parties have agreed compensation privately and yesterday Mr Mark Thomas, Miss Faby's solicitor, confirmed that Rotherham Education Authority had agreed to pay £5,750.

During the tribunal hearing Miss Faby, a teacher for 33 years, was alleged to have complained about Mr James O'Connor, her headmaster, drinking on duty, which led to the campaign.

Finally Mr O'Connor took away her classes and gave them to other teachers. He also relieved her of pastoral duties. As a senior mistress she claimed she was in effect dismissed by Mr O'Connor and forced into early retirement in October last year, after being driven to the point of a nervous breakdown.

The tribunal was also told that Miss Faby was unable to control classes.

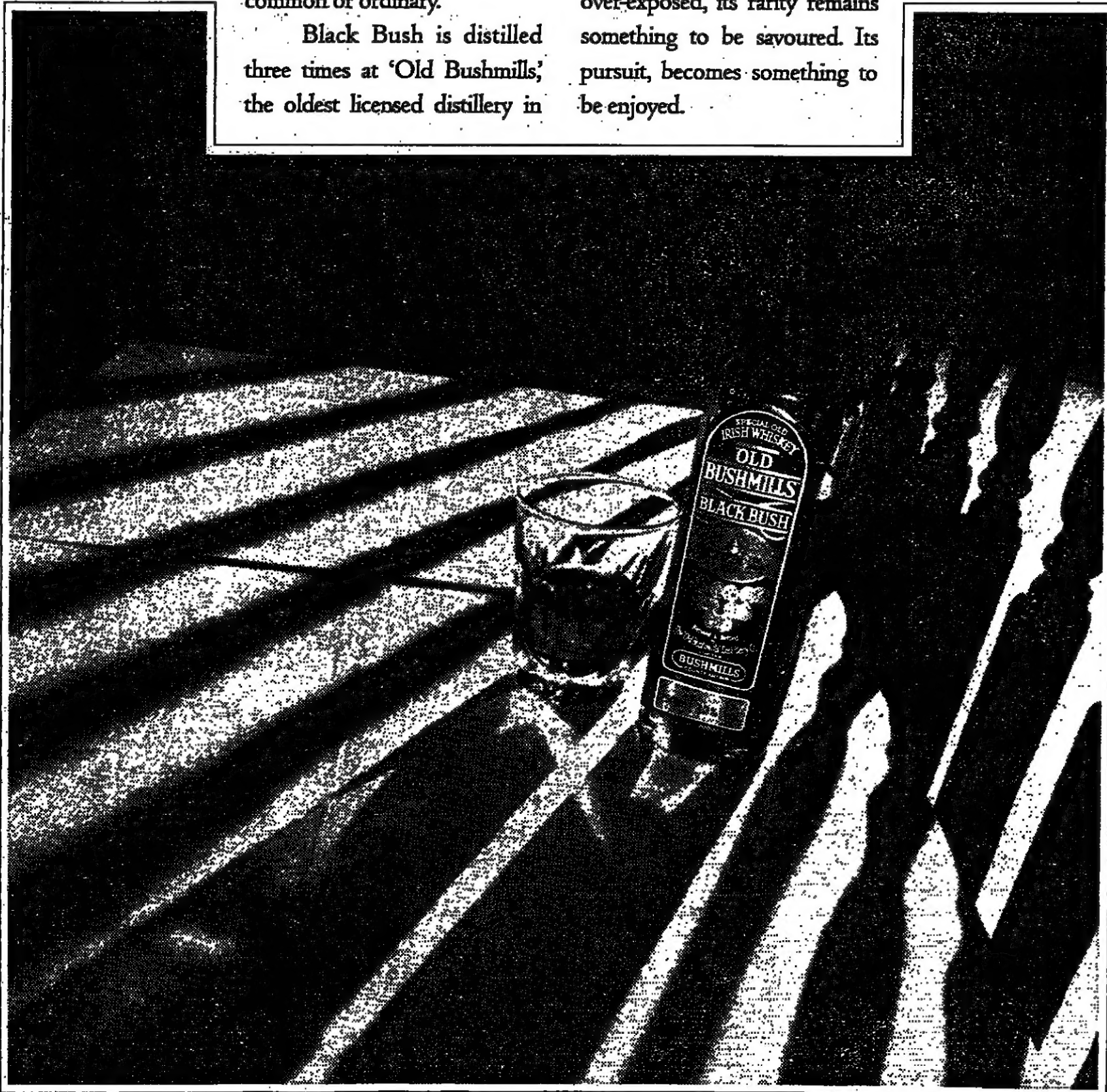
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## Families £22 poorer under Bill, TUC says

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Families could lose up to £22 a week under the Government's plan to switch responsibility for sick pay from the state to employers, according to TUC calculations. In a briefing urging trade unionists to campaign against the plan, the TUC argues that employers will also suffer from heavier financial and administrative burdens.

The plan is one of the two main proposals in the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, now in standing committee in the Commons. It would make employers responsible for paying a flat-rate benefit for the first eight weeks of sickness for employees now covered by national insurance sickness benefit, which pays extra for dependent spouses and children.

At present benefit levels, the new employer's statutory sick pay scheme (ESSP) would pay a flat-rate benefit of £37 a week, irrespective of family circumstances. TUC calculations suggest that the proposed level would leave even single people worse off in real terms than in November, 1979.

Taking inflation since 1979, into account the TUC says the proposed £37 flat rate would mean £3.57 a week less for a single person if it was paid now. For a married couple the loss would be £17.91 a week, and for a married couple with two children the loss would be £22.23 a week.

All the figures are based on people receiving sickness benefit plus the maximum earnings related supplement in November, 1979.

The TUC says disabled and elderly workers would find it harder to obtain and keep jobs. Unscrupulous employers would have more opportunities to harass and victimize workers, and the reduction in their contributions would mean an overall loss to the national insurance fund.

## Death ride on motorbike

Two joyriders died when they crashed on a stolen motor cycle while being chased at high speed by the police, an inquest at Liverpool was told yesterday.

The youngsters, who were unemployed, lost control of the 750cc machine as they took a bend at 80mph last October. David Emery, aged 13, was killed on impact and Anthony Jones, aged 17, the pillion passenger, died later in hospital from head injuries.

A police patrol car saw them breaking the 30mph limit and gave chase. Police Constable Raymond Clark, who was driving, said: "I switched on the revolving blue light and flashed at the motor cycle, indicating it to stop. But the pillion passenger looked round the motor cycle increased its speed." It was clear an accident was inevitable.

Mr Edward Emery, aged 38, of Scarisbrick Road, Norris Green, Liverpool, told the hearing that David, the eldest of his eight children, had been in trouble with motorcycling offences.

Mr Tom Ensor, Merseyside deputy coroner, recording verdicts of misadventure, said that the police officers had not acted in any way unreasonably in chasing the youths.



NEWS  
IN SUMMARYMPs clash  
with party  
postponed

Showdown between the Labour MP, Mr Albert Duffy, and his constituency party over claims that he collaborated with the management of a firm planning to make 80 workers redundant, has been put off until after Christmas.

The dispute flared after alleged tape recordings of a telephone conversation between Mr Duffy, MP for Sheffield, Attercliffe, and Mr Brian McAttey, managing director of Darnall, Sheffield, were passed to union officials.

The tapes are alleged to show Mr Duffy to be siding with the management and undermining union action to save jobs. Attercliffe Labour Party is to discuss the matter at a special meeting on January 30.

Redundancy is  
not 'sacking'

"Sacked" is an inappropriate word to describe redundancy, the Press Council repeated today.

It upheld a complaint by Mrs C. D. Tucker, of Rayner's, Lane, Harrow, Middlesex, that having published a headline which implied that Mrs Tucker who had been made redundant, had been "sacked", the editor of the Harrow Observer failed to publish a correction and apology.

New face at  
helm of 'TLS'

Mr Jeremy Treglown, aged 35, who is taking over as the editor of *The Times Literary Supplement* in succession to Mr John Gross next month.

Mr Treglown, who is now assistant editor at the *TLS*, taught English literature at Lincoln College, Oxford, and University College London before entering journalism. He has also made his mark as an actor and "raped" the actress Jane Birkin in the film *Il Amante in Blue Jeans*.

## Third time unlucky

Pensioners at St Clement's Court, Farnborough, Hampshire, have had their Christmas tree cut down by vandals for the third successive year. A local garden centre has offered to replace it.

## A new life at 90

Mr Ted Walbridge, of Ipswich, is planning to emigrate at the age of 90. He is going to live with his daughter in Perth, Australia, where he expects to arrive on Christmas Day.



Shaggy llama story: Mr Frank Bailey feeding some of his herd of eight llamas, native home South America, on his farm in Dorset. The herd started with two animals and even reached 13 before some were sold. Llama wool is used to make capes and hats in the specialist woolen trade.

## Joseph's doubt on 16-plus exam

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The future of the proposed single examination system for pupils aged 16, which is meant to replace CSE and O levels, is in doubt. The Government's commitment to introducing the new examination seems to be weakening.

It is nearly two years since Mr Mark Carlisle, the former Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced that the Government had decided to go ahead with a single 16-plus examination system. No date was given for its introduction, but it was generally expected that it would be in about 1985 or 1986.

However, Sir Keith Joseph, the new Secretary of State, is not yet convinced of the merits of the new examination. Like Mr Rhodes Boyson, minister responsible for schools, who is strongly opposed to the new examination, he is particularly worried about the effect on recognized O level standards and about the feasibility of having a single system of examining at all for such a wide ability range of pupils in subjects like mathematics.

The Government had hoped to publish a document last October, possibly in the form of a White Paper, explaining in greater detail plans for the new examination and setting

a firm introduction date. However, Sir Keith's hesitation has so far prevented that.

A draft "descriptive document" may be sent out for comment to examination boards in January, before the publication of a public document. Whether even that will happen depends on decisions that Sir Keith is expected to take over the next few days.

The all-party Commons Select Committee on Education and Science, which has just finished its report on the school curriculum and examinations for pupils aged 14 to 16, has come out firmly in favour of a single system of examining at 16-plus. However, it recommends that it should be for all pupils and not just for those in the top 50 per cent of the ability range, as proposed.

It is understood that two of the five Conservatives on the committee, Mr Timothy Brinton, MP for Gravesend, and Mr John Osborne, MP for Sheffield, Hallam, voted against the introduction of the new examination.

The select committee recommends that the national criteria on the content, aims and methods assessment, for new examination should be laid down by a reconstituted Central Advisory Council for Education and not by the

Secretary of State, as proposed.

It also recommends that the Schools Council should continue with its present role and functions for school examinations and development of the curriculum. Mr Brinton and Mr Osborne are understood to have voted against that recommendation as well. The select committee's report is not expected until February.

Specialist teacher associations have criticised the proposed draft national criteria for the new 16-plus examination, which have been drawn up by subject working parties of the joint council of the CSE and O level examinations boards.

The latest criticism comes from the association for Science Education, which said in a statement issued yesterday that while it welcomed the Government's proposals for a common examination at 16-plus, it found the present haste worrying.

The proposals offered "little or nothing" which the average citizen would find worthwhile in his or her general education, "and if the proposals are adopted they could well produce further alienation from science", it adds.

CND 'puts  
people  
in danger'

By Lucy Hodges

The ability to protect civilians in wartime is worse than at any time since the 1930s and is a national scandal, the National Council for Civil Disarmament says in a report published today.

It blames the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament for its opposition to civil defence which, it says, has led to more than 100 local authorities refusing to take part in next year's Hard Rock defence exercise.

CND has campaigned against civil defence, saying that it gives people a false sense of security and makes war more likely because people will think they can survive.

Today's report adds that Labour's successes in gaining control of local authorities has made it more difficult for the Government's new measures to be implemented, but says the record of Conservative councils is not much better.

Cuts have prevented them from expanding emergency planning teams and improving the local wartime headquarters, as suggested by the Home Secretary.

The report, by Mr Edward Leigh, the civil defence council's chairman, says expanded emergency planning teams were to have been the lynchpin of the new programme, but only Hertfordshire had made a substantial increase.

It says staffing level figures for metropolitan areas show "that just 55 men are expected to handle all aspects of the time emergency and wartime emergency planning for more than 18,500,000 people".

In Tyneside, one person would look after 1,000,000 people. "If war were to occur, then it would be true to say that never in the field of human conflict would so much be expected by so many of so few."

Mr Leigh says civil defence preparations make sense on purely humanitarian grounds. "Ironically, the mythical insistence of the enemies of civil defence that large numbers would not survive a nuclear attack, maximizes the likelihood of this people coming to grief for want of the very preparations which would otherwise have been taken."

The report says CND activists have been putting Home Office letters through a pulping machine and that Derbyshire's Labour authority relieved its chief executive of his job as wartime controller.

The council urges the Home Office to use its powers to force recalcitrant local authorities to carry out adequate civil defence planning.

County councillors in Mid Glamorgan yesterday decided to accept a nuclear free zone, then immediately accepted a £389,000 tender for an emergency shelter to be used in case of war (Tim Jones writes from Cardiff).

Leaders of the Labour-controlled council failed to explain what is inside the centre, on a Bridgend industrial estate.

'More black  
candidates'  
call to Foot

By a Staff Reporter

An organization of black councillors has written to Mr. James Foot, leader of the Labour Party, to protest at the "chronic record" of local Labour parties in choosing blacks as parliamentary candidates.

Mr Russell Proffitt, a black councillor in Lewisham, London, had been shortlisted for the Labour prospective candidature in Peckham, London. Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties, has won that nomination.

The letter, from the Standing Conference of Afro-caribbean and Asian Councillors, says that it is very concerned about the lack of support for black candidates by local Labour parties.

"I am sure you must realize that should such a state of affairs continue, many black and Asian electors will find it extremely difficult to continue to support the Labour Party," Mr Karamata Hussein, chairman of the standing conference, says.

An Institute of London University has been found to have discriminated against an Asian by not considering him properly for promotion and has been ordered to pay £100 in compensation by an industrial tribunal.

The tribunal was not satisfied that the Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, had reasonably grounds for deciding that Mr Riaz Khan lacked the supervisory skills for chief of the chemical pathology laboratory.

Homosexual conviction is  
quashed by Army Board

From Our Correspondent, Colchester

A soldier convicted of court martial of a homosexual offence has had both conviction and sentence quashed in a race move by the Army Board.

The board gave no reason for their decision on an appeal by Private Peter Biggs, aged 27, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, serving with 7 Field Force at Colchester.

But an Eastern District spokesman said: "It is most unusual for the army board to overturn completely conviction and sentence."

Private Biggs was sentenced by a court martial at Colchester last October of "disgraceful conduct of an indecent kind".

He was said to have taken part in a homosexual act with another soldier in barracks at Osnabrück, West Germany.

The court was told that Private Biggs had admitted the offence to Army investigators.

In court he denied the offence and said he had only made the admissions because he expected to be discharged from the Army for other offences.

Private Biggs said that at the time of the alleged offence he had been too drunk to know if anything else happened.

An Army spokesman said last night that a soldier had a right to appeal to the Army Board the Army's ruling body, if he was dissatisfied with the findings of a court martial. In this case it had overturned the conviction. Private Biggs was free to resume his service career with an unblemished record.

Euro-MPs vote  
for higher  
budget spending

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Dec 12

The European Council of finance ministers has been summoned to an urgent meeting in Brussels next week to try to resolve a dispute which has arisen between them and the European Parliament about the size and purpose of the EEC budget for 1982.

When he addressed the Parliament in Strasbourg today after it had refused to approve the Council's spending plans, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said it was one of the outstanding problems which remained at the end of Britain's period of presidency.

Parliament had gone beyond what the Council had been prepared to agree. "I can only hope that we are not heading, for the third year running, towards a budget dispute," he said.

After a series of votes, lasting more than two hours, the European Parliament finished the morning session with its own amended budget figures. The MEPs requested that more money should be made available for the social and regional funds to help economic development in Community countries, and more should go out in development aid to deprived countries.

In fact, the parliamentarians had considerably reduced the demands they made in November. Today's total of extra demands came to £131m in commitments, compared with the earlier figure of £153m, and £116m in payments, compared with £182m.

Against the background of a total budget of about £12,034m in commitments, and £11,381m in payments, the difference did not seem likely to lead to any great confrontation, and there is a period of several weeks during which the Council may make concessions.

Members of the European Democratic (conservative) group led the forces of moderation. Their spokesmen said afterwards that they had hoped Parliament

would have shown more restraint.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury speaking for the Council of Ministers, said he would urgently consult his colleagues to find out whether they would agree to the new maximum. Parliament would be informed of the results. On the 1981 budget, he said the council agreed with Parliament's request for an extra £32m for social measures to help steel workers.

Some members of Parliament recently involved in negotiations with the ministers complained about what they considered the ministers' stubborn attitude. They said that some countries, notably Western Germany and France, who had called for more to be spent on economic development, were opposed to higher spending when it came to a decision.

There is also a continuing argument about the classification of expenditure, which affects Parliament's powers to influence spending. Sir John Alderson, the Italian communist who is rapporteur for the budget's committee, said:

"The whole mechanism for negotiations with the Council is absolutely crazy and a diabolical invention which really obliges the Parliament and the Council to fight." It had to be changed for it could only lead to a repetition of the painful scenes witnessed in the past few weeks.

Herr Erwin Lange, the West German Socialist, who was responsible for plotting the budget through Parliament, said it was "just a patchwork quilt". It gave no idea about the way the Community was going to develop. In the "mandate" discussions, the European Commission must make proposals to change the system.

One of the main points of disagreement is Parliament's decision to increase by £15m the amount allocated for aid to the poorest of the poor countries.

Court told  
of order to  
kill whites

From Stephen Taylor  
Salisbury, Dec 17

A murder trial in which a woman spirit medium is alleged to have incited her followers to murder white Zimbabweans continued today with evidence by a former Minister of Health that he had consulted her for medical advice.

But Dr Herbert Ushewo, who was dismissed from the Cabinet in October, denied that he had been informed of murders by two former guerrillas who are alleged to have been acting on the medium's orders, or that he had discussed the killings with her.

He was giving evidence for the defence at the trial of Miss Sophie Muchini, who had attracted a cult following of indigenous religion of the Shona people and claimed to be the reincarnation of a revolutionary *nganga* who led the first rebellion against white settlers in 1896.

Miss Muchini, aged 44, has denied exhorting former guerrillas who came to her to be exorcised of the spirit of killing to murder four white farmers in the Fort Victoria district because "their farms were on the soil of the children of Zimbabwe".

Two of her followers, who are under sentence of death, have told the court that after killing Mr Abraham Roux and his wife Margaret in March on Miss Muchini's orders, they had gone to Salisbury, again at her behest, to tell the Minister.

FINAL RESULTS  
IN MALTA POLL

Valletta. — Final results of last weekend's Maltese elections showed that Mr Dom Mintoff's victorious Labour Party was outpolled by more than 5,000 votes by its Nationalist rival.

The Maltese Electoral Commission presented the final tally to President Anton Buttigieg, showing that Mr Mintoff's party won 109,990 votes, while Mr Eddie Fenech-Adami's Nationalist Party got 114,132. But Labour retained its 34 seats in the 65-seat Parliament.

## Baby blood traces found in pastor's car

From Douglas Aiton, Melbourne, Dec 17

Human foetal or baby blood was found in a car owned by

Mrs Kuhl, employed by the New South Wales Health Department, was giving evidence of examinations she made on items taken out of the car and on tests she made on the inside of the car.

She first examined a pair of scissors. "I found the presence of blood on the hinge area and there was a small deposit of blood around the handle and the inside cutting edge," she said. Experiments I carried out showed that the blood was of

human foetal origin. Mrs Kuhl believed the blood was from a child aged less than six months. She also examined the carpet in the front passenger seat of the car and it showed blood stains. There were also samples of blood flakes under the passenger seat.

A key witness in the new inquiry arrived in Darwin today from London. Professor James Cameron, a leading forensic expert, is expected to give evidence tomorrow.

East wind  
hits Paris  
motion of  
censure

From Charles Hargrove,  
Paris, Dec 17

The debate on a motion of censure against the economic policy of the French government, was robbed of much of its impact by the dramatic situation in Poland. Some Opposition speakers appreciated this and included in their condemnation of the Government its "timid, hesitated, and almost shameful" stand in the Polish crisis, inevitably the motion was lost owing to the usual massive Government majority of 244 votes to 151.

It was the third the Opposition has tabled against the Government since the left took power seven months ago.

Poland provides the Opposition with a heaven-sent opportunity to point out the internal contradictions of the left which it has revealed. "The motion have agreed to withdraw this motion in a gesture of national unity," M Claude Labbe, the chairman of the Gaullist parliamentary party, said. "But your attitude towards the Polish crisis convinced us to go ahead with it. We do not want the icy wind of Warsaw to blow on France tomorrow," he states.

"How many dead will be required to cause the dissolution of the Communist ministers?" M Jacques Godfrain, the Gaullist proposer of the motion, asked the Prime Minister. "You are promoting the class struggle when the Poles themselves reject it."

The Government and its majority naturally reacted strongly to what M Georges Sarre, the leader of the Socialist group in the Paris Council, described as "the shocking exploitation by the Opposition for domestic political ends of the tragedy the Polish people is experiencing at present. The Opposition is the prey of a phantasm; to divide the left, and to achieve this, everything goes."

M André Labarrère, the Minister in charge of relations with Parliament, stated that what bothered the Opposition was that "in the final analysis, you do not care two hoots about the Poles. What you are trying to do is to use them for an internal political operation."

Under the circumstances, the defence of the Government's economic record by M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, almost went unnoticed. "Economic recovery is at hand. The increase in unemployment is falling. The rise in prices is slowing down. The expansion of agriculture is ensured. The means of coping with delinquency are at hand."

"Gaullism, which can no longer survive, and liberalism, which is discredited, are compelled to borrow their ideas from extreme right-wing activists."

"When the right wants to renew itself, it draws from the anti-capitalist and anti-Christian arsenal of ideas which in the first half of this century, produced the catastrophes we know. It would be a mistake to let this hostility to the Government's policy, democrats allowed themselves to be taken in by false new ideas," the Prime Minister added.

Air France  
flies into  
union storm

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Dec 17

The board of Air France today decided to buy the 12 Boeing 737 aircraft which the airline has intended for years that it needs for its low density traffic, especially on some medium-distance services in Europe.

French flying personnel, especially flight engineers and their unions, have consistently objected to the purchase of the Boeings because they insist that all airlines must carry a pilot, co-pilot and a flight engineer. Elsewhere 737s are flown with a pilot and co-pilot only.

Now the unions have given notice of a strike on December 22 and 23, which, if it goes ahead, will cause chaos with holiday traffic, especially Paris-London flights.

Czech authorities try to  
crush church

From David Blow, Vienna, Dec 17

Security police are now thought to have been responsible for the mysterious deaths in Czechoslovakia this year of two Catholic activists, members of the "underground" or "catacomb" church.

On October 10 the body of Pavel Svejda, aged 20, was found at the foot of a crevasse near his home city of Brno. The authorities said it was caused by a fall and allowed his relatives to see the body before it was buried.

Mr Svejda, who was due to get married two weeks later, was known as a devout Christian and had just returned from Rome where he had visited his uncle. A Jesuit theologian at the Gregorian University.

Earlier, in February, Premysl Coudral, aged 49, was found dead in his apartment in Bratislava. On this occasion friends managed to trick the authorities into letting them see the body. They found the face and forehead heavily bruised. The left ear torn and a deep wound by the temple. Mr Coudral had also been to Rome shortly before his death and

is thought to have been ordained there.

The "underground" church in Czechoslovakia has become the target of brutal repression by the authorities. A special unit of the security forces is even thought to have been set up to deal with it.

The declining numbers of officially authorized priests are expected to confine the activities to the performance of church rituals and are firmly discouraged from any more active role in the community.

It is this deliberate attempt to suppress the life out of the Catholic Church, the "underground" church.

There are many as 500 secretly ordained priests striving to keep the Catholic faith alive by organizing prayer meetings and bible readings.

Anyone found to be involved in these activities is liable to be severely punished.

Such trials are becoming increasingly frequent and there are now over 100 priests in prison.

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## TLS

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- The Spanish Armada

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مكتبة الأمل



East wind  
hits Paris  
motion of  
censure

# Carrington complains of EEC indecisiveness

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg, Dec 17

A frustrated Lord Carrington stood before the European Parliament this afternoon to complain about the increasing difficulties of getting decisions from the European institutions.

As President of the Council of Ministers for the past six months, the Foreign Secretary was reporting on the work achieved since he took the chair. His report, had it been written by a schoolmaster, would have read: "Tried hard, but could have done better."

It showed there had been failures to get a decision on four of the most important issues Britain had tried to resolve: a fishing policy, an insurance directive, cheaper air fares, and most important of all, a new budgetary mechanism for the Community.

On the credit side, however, he was able to report success in 66 different areas, from sewage sludge treatment through help for the disabled to bringing into force the third international cocoa agreement. They were listed in a 19-page document issued today reporting the achievements of the presidency.

The four issues where the presidency failed accounted for Lord Carrington's obvious frustration. They made up what he called the dark side of the picture of the presidency. It was, he said, not the Community's credit that it had failed to reach agreement on the budget reforms.

He was particularly scathing about the breakdown of negotiations on the telecommunications market. "To their discredit," he said, "the foreign ministers have been unable to agree... because of disagreement over one word."

He pointed out to the parliament that it too had been guilty of hindering the decision-making process that very day in voting for a 1982 budget in excess of that allowed by community rules.

"The paradox which the community needs to resolve is that in these times of political and economic uncertainty it seems to be becoming necessary, to get decisions."

"We have tried to demonstrate the tenacity and endurance which are needed in every presidency, but even they are not enough if there is no common will to reach conclusions, and that is what I fear has been too often lacking in our deliberations."

Nevertheless, he was proud to be able to report that "progress has been encouraging, particularly in areas such as the environment, social policy and energy policy."

Although important things remained to be done, "I have no doubt whatever that we can find solutions," he said.

Lord Carrington's criticisms were largely aimed at failures to resolve internal problems. This was why he obviously so regretted the lack of success in finding a formula for budgetary reform.

"The Community can only advance and prosper if it is able to secure and retain the understanding and support of its citizens," he warned. "To do so it must show itself to be flexible enough to keep pace with a world of rapid change, and dynamic enough to offer a lead rather than simply responding to events."

He complained that "divergence among community states has increased rather than diminished" on economic affairs. He pointed out that it was essential "to create the conditions for that non-inflationary growth which is the only source of durable employment. We must resist the easy but fatal options of protectionism."

If he was unhappy about progress within the community, the same was not true in what he said about the Community's external relations during the British presidency.

He spent a good deal of his report on looking at the area of political cooperation, in which he has taken a particular interest. This was because of his firm belief that "the Community should exert an influence in world affairs more appropriate to its position."

He said proudly that he had found in third countries "a growing expectation that Europe will speak with one voice and a growing wish for a dialogue with the ten as such."

He ran through areas in which he had been involved in taking the initiative on behalf of the council. In the Middle East, he said, "we have seen the pursuit of peace becoming more, not less complicated, especially by the Knesset decision to take over the Golan Heights, an act which the governments of the ten strongly deplore."

The Russians bore a heavy responsibility for the terrible suffering which they had caused the Afghan people, and they had to show the political will to remove their army from Afghanistan. He believed the European proposal for Soviet withdrawal was realistic and practical.

## Israeli hope grows for renewed Africa links

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Dec 17

As speculation grows about an impending rapprochement between Israel and a number of black African states, Israeli radio has reported that the government is now in contact with seven African governments with which it has no diplomatic ties.

Senior government officials refused to comment on the report, which comes after confirmation that Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, recently made an unpublicized trip to four central African countries in an effort to promote a resumption of diplomatic relations.

Already President Mobutu of Zaïre has said publicly that he is prepared to resume the ties broken in 1973, but only in concert with other black African governments.

Among those named in diplomatic circles here as possibilities are Gabon, and the Central African Republic.

Two main factors lie behind Israel's hope of an end to its diplomatic isolation in Africa: the growing threat of a number of pro-western African governments from Colonel Gaddafi of Libya; and next April's scheduled handback to Egypt of the remaining occupied third of Sinai.

In addition, senior Israeli sources have cited the recently signed strategic cooperation agreement with the new French government of President Mitterrand and other influences favouring the expected rapprochement.

This dispatch was subject to military censorship.

## PAKISTANIS INSIST ON ARMS RIGHT

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, Dec 17

Pakistan has told India it will not forego its sovereign right to acquire arms for defence. Official sources said today such a condition could not be accepted as the price of friendship.

Pakistan Foreign Ministry sources also categorically denied any arms build-up along the borders with India, and said conditions were normal there. It is understood that army field exercises are normal at this time.

Mr Shiv Raj Paul, Indian Minister of State for Defence, told Parliament in Delhi on December 16 he had protested against the alleged arms build-up in Pakistan. Such statements, the Pakistani sources said, tended to generate unnecessary tension.

They rejected the Indian protest against sales of American military equipment including F16 fighter aircraft, as baseless, pointing out that India already possesses a high performance aircraft including Jaguars, MiG23s and MiG25s.

## Sabre-rattling conceals diplomacy

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Dec 17

Claiming that the Middle East was on the brink of war after Israel's annexation of the occupied Golan Heights, Syria today called for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss sanctions against Israel.

But the angry denunciations from Damascus and the warnings of an imminent conflict that are coming from Syrian officials are a facade.

Despite all the reports of troop build-ups along the ceasefire line that runs through the ruined village of Kineira, sixty miles south of Damascus, the Syrians have not redeployed a single gun, lorry or tank on their side of the frontier since Israel announced the annexation of Golan on Monday.

According to official figures compiled by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the Syrians are even now maintaining only 60 per cent of their permitted military strength under the ceasefire agreement around Kineira.

The Israelis, it transpires, are also under their permitted strength along the truce lines. UN statistics show that they have redeployed some mechanized units that were shipped out in August and September this year. But, in the words of one senior UN officer, "The Israelis had been at 20 per cent capacity. Now they are back to about 80 per cent."

In layman's language, this means that — for the foreseeable future — neither Israel nor Syria has the slightest intention of attacking each other across the Golan.

It does not, of course, rule out the possibility of a future conflict in Lebanon, the country which Syria has already chided as its field of battle should a war with Israel become inevitable. But it does confirm American suspicions that Syria is in no mood to attack Israel and that its anger at the Golan annexation is confined to strictly diplomatic channels.

At a press conference in Damascus this afternoon Mr Iskander Ahmed Iskander, the Syrian Information Minister, stated clearly that Syria still adhered to the disengagement agreement which Dr Henry Kissinger negotiated when he was the United States Secretary of State between Damascus and

## Democracy defies the African sun to flourish in Senegal

From Godfrey Morrison, Dakar, Dec 17

Multiparty democracy has a very poor survival record south of the Sahara. Almost everywhere it has withered in the African sun, to be replaced by military rule. But in Senegal it flourishes.

With the official recognition last week of the Senegalese Popular Party (PPS), which wants to replace French as the official language with Wolof, the country now has 11 political parties.

Unlike Nigeria and Ghana, where civilian pluralism was revived after violent coups and lengthy periods of military rule, in Senegal it has been peacefully conceded by a civilian establishment which has ruled the country unchallenged since independence from France two decades ago.

First moves to democratize political life here were taken by President Leopold Senghor who in the past five years legalized three opposition parties and then surprised everybody by voluntarily retiring at the end of last year, to be succeeded by Mr Abou Diouf, a former top civil servant and then Prime Minister.

Now President Diouf befriends the Senegalese political scene not simply because he is the world's tallest head of state — 6ft 6in in his socks — but because he has shown himself to be an unexpectedly decisive leader.

When rebels briefly overthrew President Jawara in August, President Diouf took the difficult decision to intervene quickly with Senegalese troops, and since then has set in train the plans to form a Senegambian confederation.

He has also greatly liberalized domestic politics by abandoning his predecessor's policy of restricting the number of political parties to four, and has thrown the doors open to all comers, so that this is now probably the liveliest political city in Africa.

If anything the increase in the number of political parties has strengthened the ruling Socialist Party as it has encouraged opposition splintering.

Senegalese have long spoken of their former president with a mixture of affection, pride and exasperation: affected because he was a humane and liberal leader who kept the peace in an ethnically diverse country whose politics are complicated by the power of rival Islamic brotherhoods; pride because he reflected prestige on Senegal through his international reputation as a man of letters and a French language poet of the first rank; and exasperation because of a seeming indifference to the country's minimal economic progress.

A couple of years ago in the middle of one of the country's recurrent economic crises, Mr Senghor issued a decree on punctuation.

President Diouf cares little for the niceties of the comma or the semi-colon, but he is very exercised by the full stop which threatens the economy.

The economic stabilization plan, including a stringent government retrenchment, is largely Mr Diouf's brainchild and work is at last under way on the ambitious plans to harness the hydroelectric and irrigation potential of the Senegal River, as well as on plans for chemicals industry and the development of fisheries.

President Diouf has also been highly successful in getting international pledges to see the country through.

But perhaps the best thing that has happened to Senegal in its first year under his presidency has been plentiful rainfall, which after years of drought promises a good groundnut harvest.



Father and son: A single tearful roll down the cheek of Jimmy Wilson after being reunited with his father Jay at a North Carolina bus station after 36 years. Jay last saw his son as a six-week-old baby.

## Sana hopes to end rebellion

### Two Yemens plan closer links

From Michael Knappe, Sana, North Yemen, Dec 17

The Government of North Yemen is hoping that a meeting in Aden earlier this month between its leader, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and President Nasser Muhammad of South Yemen will end the guerrilla activities of the National Democratic Front (NDF) rebels in North Yemen.

The summit ended with agreement on plans for wide-ranging political and economic cooperation between the two ideologically opposed Yemen states. Aden radio quoted President Saleh as saying that if the agreement was fully implemented it would be the foundation of a united future.

A more cautious view is being expressed in Sana. "We might reach the opposite bank of a river," said one well-informed North Yemeni, "but the current will still be flowing fast between us."

With unity seen as a still remote prospect, the Sana Government's attention is fixed upon what it regards as the more immediate fruits of the cross-border negotiations — the chance of ending the rebellious actions of the NDF.

For several years this shadowy guerrilla organization has been a thorn in the flesh of the Sana authorities. It is believed to be composed mostly of left-wing political cadres from the Taz region close to the border with South Yemen. They oppose what they regard as the conservative nature of the Sana Government and its links with the traditional northern sheikhs.

The NDF, with the support of some of the fiercely independent tribesmen in the border area who resent the authority of the central Government, spearheaded a

brief war between North and South Yemen in 1979. Earlier this year spasmodic clashes were reported between the Front and the North Yemen Army and in January the Minister of Local Government was murdered as he drove from the Red Sea port of Hodeida to the capital.

The Sana Government's control of this mountainous tip of the Arabian peninsula is still tenuous. Tribesmen, loyal to local sheikhs and armed with ancient FM and Mauser rifles, maintain their own law and order. However, by gradually extending public services, such as schools and clinics, the central Government is slowly imposing its authority, if not its ability to raise taxes.

Extensive journeys to Taiz in the south and Marib in the east established that security checkpoints were lightly manned and relaxed in operation, indicating that rebel activity is fairly minimal.

The Government is convinced that the NDF has survived only because of the lack of anything that led to its formation in the region and Aden and that this may be about to end.

According to Dr Abdul Karim Ali al-Irani, the North Yemen Prime Minister, President Muhammad of South Yemen has agreed to the publication of an agreement, reached a year earlier between the two governments, which states that neither side will support any military, political or press activity against the other.

"In other words, there will be strict adherence to good neighbourly relations," Dr Karim said. "It was well known, he said, that South Yemen had been a

## From satellite to breakfast table

From Ross Waby, Chicago, Dec 17

Space technology has made it possible for the Gannett company, America's largest newspaper chain, to launch a national news service. Gannett decided on Tuesday to risk up to \$100m (about £52m) on such a venture. USA Today, its new daily fare in 38 key cities around the country from late autumn next year.

The editorial, service, and advertising contents will be gathered together in Washington from the company's network of 85 newspapers, 13 radio stations, and seven television stations, and beamed to printing plants by signals beamed off a satellite.

"From our Earth station we will be able to transmit news, information, advertising and entertainment to an infinite number of satellite receiving stations around the country," said Mr Allen Neuharth, Gannett's chairman and president. Two prototypes of the newspaper were tested during the summer, and company sources said the response was encouraging.

The United States, because of its vastness and regional differences, does not have a national press like Britain. Only the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times approximate to a national press, and each has a specialized readership. Basically, the Wall Street Journal is for businessmen, and The New York Times is for transplanted and travelling New Yorkers.

The National Observer tried valiantly for 15 years to invade the mass market now being reconquered by Gannett before it folded in 1977.

USA Today will not be a pioneer of its pages, because the Wall Street Journal has been doing it for five years.

Mr Neuharth has invested a considerable sum on the idea, preparation having begun in March 1980, when a task force of Gannett executives, employed by a new subsidiary, Gannett Satellite Information Network, began their research.

He is convinced that the American public has a voracious appetite for information, and he is concerned that it is not getting enough of the material gathered by the company's 4,168 journalists.

"Analysis indicates we now probably deliver to consumers only about 20 per cent of the news and information which we gather," he said.

## USA TODAY

Social Security plan starts up

USA Today is a new daily newspaper launched by the Gannett company. It is designed to be a national news service, providing information to a wide range of readers. The paper is expected to be a significant addition to the American media landscape.

## Reagan makes history in Congress

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Dec 17

The ninety-seventh Congress adjourned late last night after handing President Reagan two more victories in an historic first session dominated by unprecedented budget cuts and huge increases in defence spending.

In the rush to adjourn before Christmas, the Congress debated into the night, finally agreeing just before midnight to give Mr Reagan a foreign aid programme and a new farm Bill very close to those he had asked for.

Not since the early years of the Lyndon Johnson Administration has a session of Congress been so dominated by a president who had requested and got a series of programmes which represent a fundamental change in the public policy of the United States.

Indeed, Mr Reagan issued a statement through his spokesman claiming seven major victories in the first session of the Congress which begins its second session on January 25.

As itemized by the White House, the victories include: Passage of the biggest defence budget in American history amounting to \$200,000m (about £111,000m); two rounds of unprecedented budget cuts totalling about \$40,000m; the first fully authorized foreign aid programme in three years setting spending levels at \$11,500m; huge tax cuts amounting to more than \$400,000m; the sales of A-6s radar aircraft to Saudi Arabia, and a pared-down, stopgap spending measure for fiscal 1982 creating an additional \$4,000m in budget cuts.

## S Africa gets nuclear fuel

Paris — South Africa has supplied enriched uranium to be turned into fuel elements in France for the first French-built South African nuclear power reactor.

The fuel elements will be used to start up South Africa's first nuclear power station at Koeberg, near Cape Town, 12 months from now. Framatome, a French consortium building the station, said the plant had undergone successful circuit pressure tests and should go into industrial production in December, 1982.

The South African Electricity Supply Commission has sent its first consignment of enriched uranium which we are turning into fuel elements in accordance with our contract," M Jean-Claude Leno, Director-General of Framatome, said. "How South Africa obtained that uranium is none of our concern." The French Government has given Framatome permission to process it.

## 297 Released then arrested

Caro. — A total of 297 people were rearrested shortly after the prosecutor-general had dropped political charges against them, official sources said.

The group described as "common criminals" by the Government, were rounded up again under the emergency law for constituting a "danger to national security".

They were among 1,563 people arrested under President Sadat's regime for alleged involvement in sectarian strife which left some 80 Christians and Muslims dead earlier this year.

## Finnish Communists suspend Stalinists

Helsinki. — The Finnish Communist Party, third largest in Western Europe, faced a serious crisis after all its Stalinist members were suspended from the parliamentary group until the end of the parliamentary session, which means until March, 1983.

## Lagos fire deaths

Lagos. — The terms of an official investigating panel appointed by President Shugu Shagari of Nigeria appear to suggest that several lives may have been lost in Monday night's fire in Lagos which destroyed the Foreign Ministry and Ministries of Science and Technology and Information. Earlier reports had spoken of one dead.

## China to aid Sudan

Xi'an. — China will provide military assistance to Sudan, following a visit to Peking by General Abdul Masid Hamid Khalil, the First Vice-President.

## NEW YORK DUSTMEN END STRIKE

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Dec 17

A tentative agreement hammered out in talks that lasted all through the night looks like ending the dustmen's strike that has filled rooftops and streets in the city with rubbish.

The agreement, which has to be ratified by a meeting of the striking Teamsters, came as city sanitation lorries each with a police escort started to pick up the 100,000 tons of rubbish that has been piling up in the winter's damp chill.

The strike has been against the private carters, who pick up rubbish from commercial premises including restaurants, private hospitals, and offices — and not the municipal department, which services private households.

THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY APPEAL TO ALL TEACHERS IN UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND POLYTECHNICS

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### First phase of arms talks end

The initial phase of the American-Soviet negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear weapons concluded with a sixth formal meeting, lasting 45 minutes, at the Soviet diplomatic mission. A communiqué said that after "the Christmas new year recess to permit the delegates to be with their families", meetings would resume on January 12.

While a news blackout has been in force since talks started on November 30, indications point to serious and difficult negotiations on reestablishing stability of deterrence. In the American perspective, this should be seen in conjunction with the bilateral discussions on strategic intercontinental weapons expected to begin in March.

The United States has also underlined that any limitation agreement must incorporate provisions for stringent verification of compliance.

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Inside Poland: Roger Boyes reports

## Spontaneous strikes defy military solution

Poland is still wracked by spontaneous labour unrest despite the efforts of the new military leadership to cordon off and at times forcefully break up strikes and factories throughout the country. This situation has been at least partially admitted by the official media which have reported continuing "irresponsible acts" by workers.

The immediate difficulty in judging the scope of the strike wave is the country's shift system. The authorities will often report that they have cleared a strike but within hours there is a change of shift. The new workers then enter the factories and a substantial part of the old shift are persuaded to stay.

This confusion goes some way towards explaining the conflicting reports emerging from the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk about the strike, which has either been successfully ended (according to the officials) or is sporadically continuing (according to Solidarity sources).

But it is clear that there is considerable unrest not only in the traditionally militant factories—Nowa Huta in Cracow, Huta Warszawa in Warsaw—but also in the coal mines in Silesia and in Poznan, Lodz,

Wroclaw, Radom and Katowice.

The pattern of breaking the strikes is that troops, usually backed by armoured personnel carriers, surround the factories, the factory management relays an ultimatum to the strikers and without any delay for negotiations, the soldiers then go in. There have been no reports of serious injuries and, apart from conflicting reports from Cracow, shooting seems to have been avoided.

At the Nowa Huta steel works, some travellers report as many as six people shot, while other reports state that there was shooting but only above the heads of the crowd. Foreign correspondents who spent time in the factories and telephone blackouts have been banned from leaving Warsaw, have been unable to confirm the stories one way or another.

The only lasting solution is the closing down of the factories concerned. The military have done this at the Ursus tractor factory, a traditional source of worker militancy. But this only creates more problems than it solves. The Army clearly cannot close down every factory in the country.

This is particularly evident in the coal mines of Silesia,

where some 20 pits are out of action.

All of this points to a role of some sort for Solidarity, the trade union, which is facing serious inhibitions on its activities.

Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, although in Government hands, is insisting that he will only make a decision on the union's attitude to martial law, with the full praesidium of the union, which implies that a number of the internal activists would have to be released.

The Roman Catholic Church too, though careful not to attack the new leadership, has called for the release of the imprisoned, for the freedom of the union to operate within its legal bounds, and for the continuation of the process of democratic renewal.

There are thus clear bounds on the military's economic, religious, and the simple inability to cope with all of its various tasks. But the military is seeking in the first instance a military solution.

The Communist Party seems to have disappeared, at least temporarily, from the political landscape and the Army seems to be content to solve the national problems by simple military means.

The economy

## US bankers balk at request for loan

From Bailey Morris Washington, Dec 17

American bankers are taking a much harder line than their European counterparts on Poland's request for help in meeting \$500m (£280m) in late interest payments owed to Western banks, a senior State Department official has disclosed.

In hastily-called meetings American banks yesterday decided to adopt a tough position on Poland in order to force the Soviet Union to produce the money Poland owes by December 31.

American banks are hoping the Russian bear will blink. The official said, adding that the United States Government has decided not to intervene in the negotiations.

The Polish Government requested an additional \$350m in loans from its Western creditors in order to pay the interest it owes to 450 bank on loans totalling \$2,400m.

Directors of an estimated 20 American banks met separately to discuss the Polish request. The first communication from banking authorities since martial law was declared.

Some of America's largest banks are involved, including Bank of America, Citibank, Morgan Guaranty, Chemical Bank and Manufacturers Hanover Trust.

Most reacted negatively to the request with directors expressing doubts if Poland will be able to repay what it owes.

Altogether, Poland owes about \$1,800m to 60 American banks and \$1,800m to the American Government. This is a small portion of the debt which is held largely by Western banks who are more anxious to reach agreement with Poland, one banker said.

Of the \$500m in interest due to Western banks this month, American banks are due only about \$100m.

Despite their pessimism over Poland's ability to repay, the banks are expected to agree to a new agreement with Poland, one banker said.

It is highly unlikely that American banks will agree to a new agreement with Poland with new credits until overdue payments are met, a Citibank official said.

He declined to comment on reports that Citibank sent a message to this effect to the Polish Government yesterday. "I don't think you'll see many new credits or new loan restructure agreements until there is some movement on past-due payments", the banker said.

Brussels: Poland's request for the bridging loan also received an enthusiastic response from European bankers today (Peter Norman writes).

Although the banks have done no more than formally acknowledge that the request has been received, many bankers privately think they cannot imagine Poland getting the money from anywhere except the Soviet Union.

"It is part of a super poker game", one West German banker said. "The Soviet Union will have to give the money to the Poles in the end."

The continuing news blackout from Warsaw has done nothing to increase the confidence of bankers. One banker closely involved with the Polish debt problem said today that the request would have to be dealt with in face-to-face negotiations with the Poles, but there was no indication in the case of the Bank Handlowy that the Poles were willing or able to participate in such talks.

### POLISH NEWS

#### IN SUMMARY

## Coal supply halted

Hamburg: Polish coal deliveries to West Germany and West Berlin will total one million tonnes this year, only 40 per cent of the contracted amount, a spokesman for the importing agency said today.

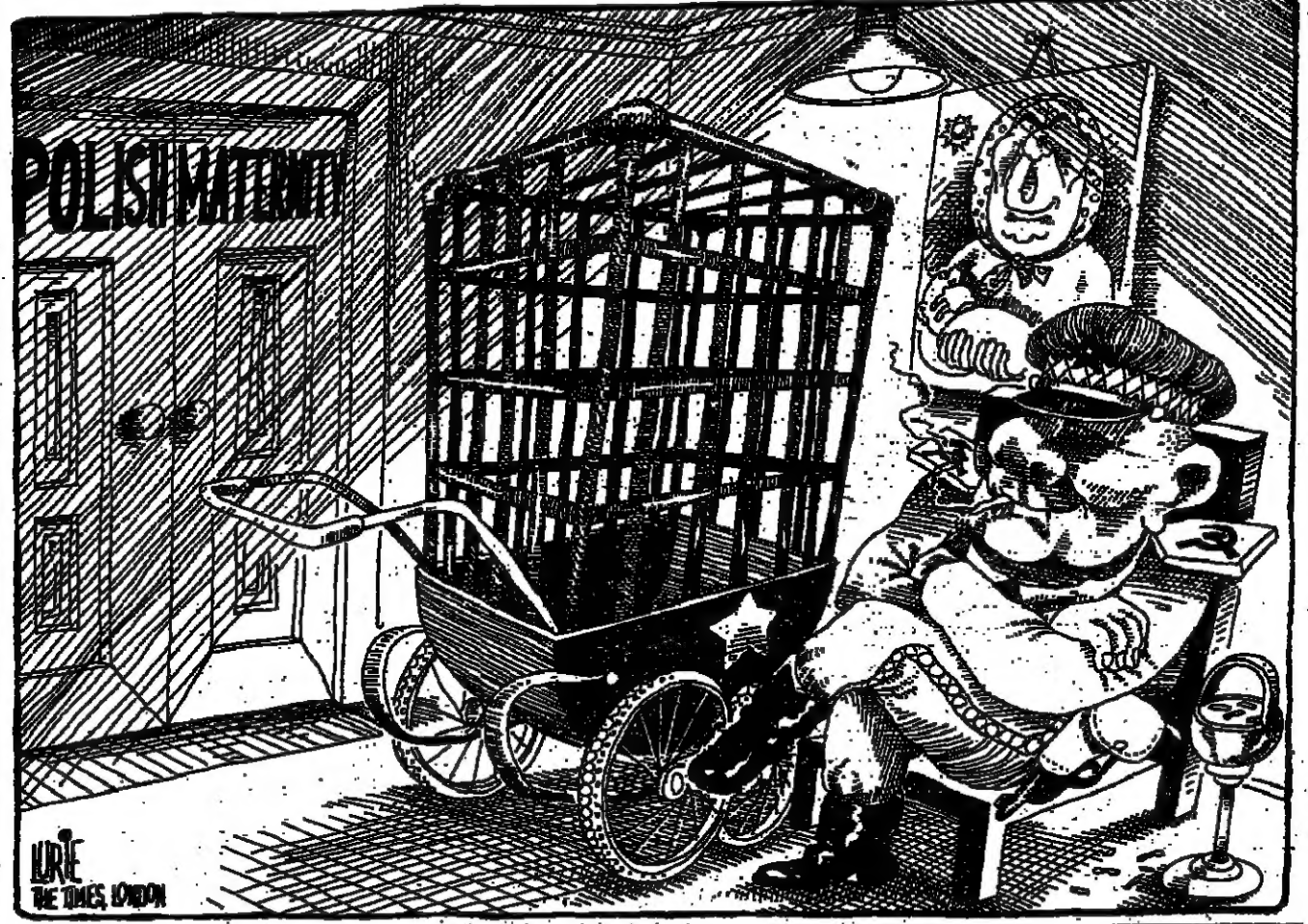
But the F&K-GMBH spokesman said the company had firm commitments for increased supplies in 1982. No coal has left Poland for West Germany since the imposition of martial law, he said.

—Reuter  
A demand that British trade unions should sever all links with the official "phony" unions in the Soviet block was made by the Polish Solidarity Campaign in London yesterday. (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Paris: M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, said yesterday the military takeover in Poland was contrary to the Helsinki agreements and that the French representative to the Madrid conference on European security would say so (Charles Hargrave writes).

Geneva: A "Light a Candle for Peace" appeal to people in Poland, Switzerland and other countries was issued yesterday by the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches here (Alan McGregor writes).

□ The Polish military takeover was an abortion of history, having nothing to do with socialism, Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish Communist Party leader, said (Richard Wigg writes).



The view from the West

## Torch of liberty will burn, says Reagan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Dec 17

President Reagan issued a warning today that it would be impossible for the United States to continue trying to help Poland to solve its economic problems if the Polish people were not allowed to resolve their own problems free of internal coercion and outside intervention.

In the toughest American statement on the Polish crisis since martial law was declared last weekend, the President made it clear that the United States was prepared to take punitive measures against Poland if the communist authorities in Warsaw continued their purge of trade union leaders and intellectuals. However, he repeatedly refused to spell out what action the United States might take.

Addressing the sixth press conference of his Administration, the President also made it plain that the United States believed the Soviet Union was behind the Polish Government's decision to crack down on the Solidarity free trade union movement.

The President called on all free people to join in urging the Polish Government to re-establish conditions that would make constructive negotiations and compromise possible.

"Certainly it will be impossible for us to continue trying to help Poland to solve its economic problems while martial law is imposed on the people of Poland, thousands are imprisoned and the legal rights of free trade unions previously granted by the Government are now denied."

The President said that Poland, speaking through Solidarity, had provided one of the brightest, bravest, moments of modern history. Left

only action taken by the United States so far has been with a mixed response.

The Administration has been deeply conscious of criticisms being made in Washington comparing its relative inaction over Poland with President Carter's handling of the crises in Iran and Afghanistan.

The President said all the information reaching the United States confirmed that the imposition of martial law in Poland had led to the arrest and confinement, in prisons and detention camps, of thousands of Polish trade union leaders and intellectuals.

Factories were being seized by security forces and workers beaten, he said. "These acts make plain there's been a sharp reversal of the movement toward a freer society that has been underway in Poland for the past year and a half."

Coercion and violation of human rights on a massive scale have taken the place of negotiation and compromise. All of this is in gross violation of the Helsinki Pact (of 1975) on East-West détente and human rights to which Poland is a signatory.

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The President said that Poland, speaking through Solidarity, had provided one of the brightest, bravest, moments of modern history. Left

to themselves, the Polish people would enjoy a new birth of freedom.

But there are those who oppose the idea of freedom, who are intolerant of national independence and hostile to the European values of democracy and the rule of law.

"Two December ago, freedom was lost in Afghanistan. This Christmas it's at stake in Poland. But the torch of liberty is not," the President declared.

"It burns those who try to extinguish it."

The colossal disaster

Strasbourg: In his most outspoken statement so far on the situation in Poland, Lord Carrington today called for the release of all those who had been detained since the military takeover and an early resumption of the process of negotiation and consultation in the country (Jan Murray writes).

"This alone," he told members of the European Parliament meeting here, "can produce a solution to Poland's problems."

Lord Carrington, who was reporting on the work of Britain as President of the Council of Ministers for the past six months, said that at the moment he was ready to arrange urgent consultations on the Polish issue if they became necessary.

His analysis of the situation was extremely gloomy. In the 48 hours since the EEC Foreign Ministers had met in London, he said, the "Polish crisis" had continued to "darken".

He went on: "We are familiar with natural disasters; but here in the heart of our continent is a man-made disaster on a colossal scale. Although news is censored and com-

munications cut and diplomatic facilities suspended, we read of arrests, detentions and evictions. There has almost certainly been some loss of life. There is an ominous silence about the fate of Lech Walesa."

Lord Carrington said he did not want to overstate the situation. "It is difficult by his words and there were many things he could say but would leave unsaid."

"But two things seem clear to me. First and foremost, there must be no foreign interference, once whatever, and second, there must be an early resumption of the process of negotiation and consultation, including the release of those in detention."

He noted that assurances about this had been given by "whom is called the Military Council of National Salvation". The Parliament and the world, he said, would be watching to see how these assurances were put into effect.

Lord Carrington's statement takes a much tougher line than the one issued on Tuesday by the ministers of the Community at their informal London meeting. That is because reports of the situation have now confirmed that the military takeover has been completed.

Although reports that Soviet transport aircraft have arrived in Warsaw have not been taken as proof of use of Soviet troops, Lord Carrington has sought to underline the dangers of any possible Soviet involvement.

It seems that Solidarity is not working openly in the country, although transport to Warsaw has been somewhat disrupted and workers have been occupying their factories in the provinces rather longer than has been possible in Warsaw.

The view from the East

## Crisis birthday for Soviet leader

Moscow, Dec 17—East European leaders began arriving in the Soviet capital today for celebrations to mark the seventy-fifth birthday of Saturday of President Leonid Brezhnev.

Mr Brezhnev's birthday, like his seventieth in 1976, is being treated as a big event in the Soviet calendar and has been heralded with books, films, television documentaries, special exhibitions and fulsome praise in the official press.

Usually reliable sources said leaders of the Soviet Union's past career which has been most highlighted recently is the Second World War when he was a political commissar with the 15th Army. Less has been said recently about his contribution to the development of agriculture, perhaps because the Soviet Union has had three bad harvests in a row.

Big prominence has also been given to his role as an international statesman and as the "architect of détente". Mr Yuri Zhukov, a veteran commander for the Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, referred in an article today to Mr Brezhnev's rank of Marshal of the Soviet Union and dubbed him Marshal of peace.

Mr Brezhnev was once widely rumoured to want to cap his career by becoming the first Soviet leader to retire voluntarily, or on obvious successor has been groomed and foreign diplomatic analysis of the Kremlin scene now believes that he will stay at the helm as long as his uncertain health permits.

Nothing is said publicly about Mr Brezhnev's health but he is known to have suffered for some years from a variety of ailments which have led him to take extended rests. Last month, he proved he was still fit enough to carry out foreign trips, by traveling to West Germany, where he seemed to many observers to be in better shape than on his previous visit there in 1978.

## Yugoslav commentary angers embassy

From Dusan Trevisan, Belgrade, Dec 17

The Polish Embassy in Belgrade today lodged a protest against a commentary relayed last night by Belgrade television which raised misgivings about the claim that Poland was threatened by counter-revolution and blamed the Polish Communist Party's failure to meet popular demands for the present situation.

The commentator, Mr Milica Sunde, is known for his outspoken criticism of the Soviet Union. This time, in airing doubts whether martial law can provide an effective solution to Poland's problems, he went beyond the official Yugoslav view which was that the state of emergency should be as short as possible and all countries should refrain from meddling.

Mr Sunde, however, said that the martial law was a "necessary evil" imposed on the ground that Poland was threatened by counter-revolution.

The most important thing now, he went on, was to stop the lesser evil from turning into a bigger one and to avoid bloodshed or foreign intervention. Fear of this should not be a reason for prolonging the martial law indefinitely.

He said that the present situation should be called by its proper name: a state of emergency, meaning nothing else but military rule. In other words, this was an admission that the Polish Communist Party had failed the test and there was no "greater failure" than for a Communist Party to lose the confidence of the working class.

This was not to say that it was impossible for the party to regain confidence. But Mr Sunde doubted whether military rule was the right way to do it. The Polish Communist Party had no more the demands and expectations of the Polish workers who had been betrayed several times in the past. It was questionable whether any rule could give them what the party had failed to provide.

The Yugoslavs have repeatedly sounded warnings against anyone attempting to interfere in Poland's affairs and Mr Sunde said that this would be extremely dangerous. But the Yugoslavs clearly feel that the longer martial law is maintained, the greater is the danger of the crisis deepening still further.

Yugoslav journalists in Warsaw in their dispatches speak of growing concern as strikes, especially in the large industrial centres, continue. The correspondent of Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency, said that the workers in Poland's largest steel mill in Cracow had laid down tools and security forces intervened to break up the strike.

A six-in was reported in two more factories in Cracow as well as in several industrial centres in the large industrial centres, continue. The correspondent of Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency, said that the workers in Poland's largest steel mill in Cracow had laid down tools and security forces intervened to break up the strike.

In Lodz crowds gathered in the city centre and were dispersed by security forces. Several people are said to have been arrested.

The anniversary today of the Baltic riots in which many people were killed 11 years ago provoked further tension throughout the country. Warnings relayed continuously on Polish radio and television claimed that the young were being misled by anti-Communists and explained what the actual law meant.

In the past 24 hours, more than 20 officials have been dismissed, mainly factory managers who are believed to have ignored orders given under emergency regulations. This indicates that medium-rank party officials, especially in the large factories, are joining in the protests against martial law. Yugoslav sources also report that the reactor of the Naval Academy in Gdynia, has been dismissed.

Yugoslav reports also speak of increasing difficulties in market supplies of long queues for bread, which has been rationed at one kilogram a person a day.

## Travellers tell of tension and courtesy

By Robin Young and Simon Scott-Plummer

Passengers on the first flight out of Warsaw since the military takeover painted a picture of tension and sorrow in Poland when they arrived at Heathrow airport, London, last night.

Foreign nationals who succeeded in getting on board Flight LO 255 due at 9.30 am finally touched down at Heathrow shortly after 7 pm. Delays had been attributed to strict security control at Warsaw airport.

Mr Bohdan Rybinski, a Polish-born businessman from Surrey, said: "There was a considerable show of strength—tanks on the streets, soldiers at every corner, with police more in the background. The army were strict but polite. We were not allowed to take any pictures or to go out on the street at night. The atmosphere is very sad."

Mr Zigmunt Kollard, who had gone to Poland with food parcels, said he thought most Poles had accepted the new situation. However, he did not have the impression that Solidarity was defeated.

Mr Larbi Meddeb, a Swiss who had been in transit for only one day but forced to stay five, found the atmosphere in Warsaw "very easy going."

□ A British teacher and an elderly man who did not want to give their names said the Solidarity offices in Warsaw had been smashed up by Polish troops and water pipes cut so the offices were flooded (the Press Association reports).

"Many people are being arrested for putting up posters, but the soldiers are being very friendly," said the teacher.

Mrs Georgina Pentland, from Driffield, Yorkshire, arrived in Warsaw with food for friends shortly before the takeover.

"The atmosphere changed immediately," she said. "We didn't even feel safe walking in the streets. On the whole the soldiers were polite and courteous, but there were masses of police around and we were told by our friends to keep out of their way."

## The refugees



## Trains of hope that passed in the night

An Austrian woman and her child (above) learn the news in Vienna that her Polish husband, whom she expected to see, had gone to meet her in Warsaw after hearing of military rule being imposed. Their son (right) waits and weeps.

The woman travelled on the Chopin Express from Warsaw to Vienna which, during the night, passed the train from Vienna to Warsaw with her husband on board.

Road and rail links in and out of Poland have been cut or severely delayed. All foreigners are being prevented from entering from neighbouring East block countries.





# Pretoria offers Namibia plan guarded welcome

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Dec 17

The West's revised constitutional guidelines for an independent Namibia (South-West Africa) which include important new details on the method of electing a constituent assembly, were handed over today to the South African Government in Cape Town and to the so-called internal political parties in the South African administered territory.

The proposals will today and tomorrow also be presented to the front-line black African states (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), Kenya, Nigeria and the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

After receiving the proposals, Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said that the independence process appeared to be "still on the track".

The proposals were presented at a meeting between Mr Botha and ambassadors of America, Britain, Canada, France and West Germany, the five western powers forming the "contact group" which has been seeking an internationally acceptable independence for Namibia since 1977.

The main provision in the revised guidelines, which seek to reconcile the often conflicting criticisms of the West's original proposals of last October, is the much amplified and more specific section on the elections to the constituent assembly.

The West now says that half the seats in the assembly should be elected by proportional representation, with parties being represented in exact proportion to the number of votes they receive, and the other half on the basis of single-member constituencies.

## Appeal to West

### Angola grows desperate for end to conflict

Luanda, Dec 17—Angola appears to be sending messages of despair to the West over Namibia as time runs out for the Lusanda leadership to secure the solution of a problem that is crippling the country.

The most significant move came last week when President José Eduardo dos Santos offered to negotiate with the United States at any time.

He did so days after Mr Alexander Haig, United States Secretary of State, received the main opponent of the Lusanda Government, Dr Jonas Savimbi, head of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

Yesterday the Portuguese state radio in Lisbon quoted Mr Adriano dos Santos, Angola's Ambassador, of saying his country would be willing to talk to Dr Savimbi if he gave up his links with South Africa.

Angola's Embassy in Lisbon today denied its ambassador had said this, but the Portuguese radio report was repeated in the United States.

Angola has made offers to the United States before, but the timing of President dos Santos's latest proposal lent it special weight. It took a good deal of political courage for the President to hold out an olive branch to the United States immediately after the Reagan Administration had lavished official attention on the man his Government has branded an arch-enemy.

Soviet diplomats in Luanda scoffingly commented that there was nothing new in the offer and said that President dos Santos's condemnation of Unita's internal affairs was far more important.

However, the news summary, the official Angolan news agency Angop only gave two extracts from the speech: one contained the President's offer and the other quoted him as praising American businessmen.

President dos Santos, cast as an increasingly isolated moderate in Angola's confused political scene, appears to have thrown his full political weight behind efforts to end the Lusanda leadership's search for the solution of a problem that is crippling the country.

Since last summer's South African incursion, Angola has lost control of a large slice of its territory stretching from the south bank of the Cunene river to the Namibian border.

The loss of southern Cunene province is the price Angola has had to pay for sheltering the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) that has been fighting a 15-year guerrilla war against South African forces for the independence of Namibia.

President dos Santos repeatedly reaffirms his support for SWAPO in public speeches, but there are indications that all is not well between the organization and its Angolan hosts.

It is probably the economic cost of maintaining the front line with South Africa that is putting the heaviest pressure on the Lusanda leadership. The South African incursion is being officially blamed for the worsening food shortages and the crisis that is forcing Angola to cut imports and lower its main economic targets.

Although potentially one of the richest countries in Africa, Angola is not being given a chance to develop its wealth because it has to spend most of its oil revenues on importing arms, as well as the food that is not being grown because of the guerrilla war being waged by South African-backed Unita guerrillas.

The Namibian issue has always been reported to be one of the most divisive within Angola's fragmented leadership. The fact that President dos Santos has so closely identified himself with a negotiated solution could mean that not only the future of Namibia but his own political survival now depends on America's reply to his latest offer.—Reuters.

## European space flight delayed

From Clive Cookson, Kourou, French Guiana, Dec 17

Fuel supply problems have delayed the fourth and final test flight of the European rocket Ariane by at least 24 hours.

Officials at the French Guiana space centre were working feverishly today on the plates connecting the liquid oxygen supply to Ariane's third stage. Last night, just before liftoff, they found a defect in the mechanism that locks the plates in place until the fuel tanks are full.

If the problem is solved as expected, the European Space Agency's rocket will take off on Saturday night (early Sunday morning GMT).

The French-dominated team of space scientists and engineers is anxious to put on a perfect show for the representatives of organizations—satellite Ariane's potential customers—who have flown in.

So far the European Space Agency and ArianeSpace (the company that will produce and market Ariane) have firm bookings to launch 21 satellites.

Britain has contributed only 2.4 per cent of Ariane's £500m development costs.

## Tough talks start in Singapore

From David Watts, Singapore, Dec 17

Datuk Seri Dr Mahatir Muhammad, the new Malaysian Prime Minister today began his first official talks with Singapore officials taking office.

Against the backdrop of Malaysia's more assertive mood the first day of intensive meetings will be watched with more than usual interest in the region because it brings together two determined, tough-minded men who have not always had kind words for each other.

Dr Mahatir is similar to his Singapore counterpart, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, not only in his nationalistic, almost humourless, approach to life, but also in his expectation that things will be done precisely the way he wants them.

Two bilateral issues are likely to bring some old-fashioned political horse-trading in the talks. Malaysia wants to take control of air traffic throughout the length of peninsular Malaysia, now partly under Singapore's control, and is seeking quarters for its naval headquarters base, which is in Singapore. Singapore needs more land in the south of the island for continuing development.

# PARLIAMENT December 17 1981

## LORDS RULING

Demande from Labour MPs, led by Mr Michael Foot, to make to the Prime Minister and to the Leader of the House, for an early debate on today's court decision on London Transport fares.

Mr Foot said the House should have a chance to pronounce on what it thought was a fair fare policy for London.

There is to be a debate tomorrow on a private member's motion on communications in London and the south-east. But Mr Foot said that this could be no substitute for a proper debate in government time.

The exchanges began when Mr Foot asked: has the Prime Minister had a chance today to study the House of Lords judgment on London fares? This judgment is bound to have, if carried out, a major impact on the lives of millions of people in London and the south-east. It is a matter of great importance to the Government and to the House of Commons.

Mr Foot said: "I am sure that the Prime Minister will have had a chance to study the House of Lords judgment on London fares. It is a matter of great importance to the Government and to the House of Commons. I am sure that the Prime Minister will have had a chance to study the House of Lords judgment on London fares. It is a matter of great importance to the Government and to the House of Commons."

that particular respect is that London Transport has a duty to budget, to make a reasonable effort, to break even, recognising that in present circumstances it may well not do so.

The previous year's budget, set on the basis that there would be a £30m subsidy from the GLC, constituted just such a reasonable effort, and that subsidy in itself is not unlawful.

Mr Foot: The Prime Minister has not had time to study the debates in which she took part several years ago on the matter when the Bill was passing through the Commons.

The whole question of what was economic and not economic was considered then. She made no objection to the Bill in the terms it went through. Will she consider again the possibility of legislation to make this matter absolutely clear and for the House itself to have the chance to pronounce again on what it thinks is a proper and fair fare policy for London?

Mr Foot: "First of all, one must look in detail at the House of Lords judgment before rushing into an instant solution or instant legislation. That was the point."

The judgment was not concerned with the fairness of the GLC decision to reduce by 25 per cent fares charged in greater London. It was concerned with the legality of that decision within the limited powers Parliament gave to the GLC in the Transport Act 1968.

Mr Foot: The Commons should be clear that it is not a matter of the duty they owed to ratepayers and wrong in law. What is in dispute is a matter of the duty they owed to ratepayers and wrong in law. What is in dispute is a matter of the duty they owed to ratepayers and wrong in law.

Borough of Bromley, may I ask Mrs Thatcher to take another opportunity to congratulate my former colleagues on that count who, by their successful action against the GLC, have brought relief to millions of hard-pressed ratepayers throughout London?

If the Commons allow, her to contribute to a debate on a private member's motion tomorrow on communications in London and the south-east. She will be very welcome.

Mr Thatcher: I congratulate Mr Foot on his motion. I am sure that the House will have a chance to study the House of Lords judgment on London fares. It is a matter of great importance to the Government and to the House of Commons.

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The Speaker: We try in this House to respect the judiciary as we expect the judiciary to respect the House. I think we can leave that matter there.

I hope we are not going to pursue this. It is the judgment of the House. To accuse the members of people in the judiciary will be as out of order as it would be to accuse people of disloyalty or of unfairness. I think we can leave that matter there.

Mr Speaker: Just to help you to have a clear view, as long as you understand you are not free to criticise the motives of the judiciary, I think we can leave that matter there.

The Speaker: It sounds as if we are going to get on better than I thought. (Laughter.)

Mr Speaker: The point you have to clearly is while it seems that reference to the law lords position as being politically motivated is wrong, the Prime Minister in an earlier contribution laid great stress on the fact that this matter was dealt with in the first instance by a Tory-controlled council. She said that out of her own mouth. I think it is wrong to say that the Government should be even-handedness on both sides.

The Speaker: It is always important in this House to be even-handed. I have no doubt if and when a debate takes place, there will be a defence and criticism of both local authorities involved. That is entirely different from an attack on the motives of the Government.

After Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House had announced the business for next week, Mr Foot asked: "Will the Government be prepared to take a decision on this matter as a private member's motion?"

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the recent, the House should give its guidance on this matter in a debate next week, and the Government should give time for it.

Mr Pym (Cambridge, C): Obviously from what Mrs Thatcher has said, tomorrow's debate will certainly not be the end of the matter. The Government is to give proper consideration to the question as well as to the Opposition MPs. After that process has been completed we can review the matter again.

I am not prepared to rearrange business for next week. We cannot say how long this consideration will take on this subject or others.

Mr Christopher Price (Leeds, West, Lab): A judgment like this, which is the effect of increased taxation of the land market, should be debated at the earliest possible moment.

Mr Pym: The judgment refers to London ratepayers. In so far as it may have wider implications and in so far as his opinion may be right, that adds force to what I said about proper consideration being given to this judgment in the first case.

Mr Pym: Well, I believe (Beatty, Erit, and Crayford, SDP): What is at issue is not the right of the GLC to provide a subsidy, but the responsibility which they exercise in providing that subsidy. It is advisable to have a debate on that. Mr Livingstone and his Marxist friends on the GLC, and some of them here, can be said to have a view which is unacceptable to Londoners and is irresponsible attitude, and that what he needs to do is to exercise responsible management of Londoners' affairs.

Mr Pym: I have nothing to add to the replies I have given.

Mr Pym: There is one urgent need for legislative action to follow that judgment, and that is a Bill of introduction to protect those persons who have acted apparently unlawfully in the belief that they were acting lawfully. I do not know about legislation. The point he has raised will certainly come into consideration of the judgment.

Later, Mr Albert Booth, Opposition spokesman on Transport, unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate.

## Thatcher no to incomes policy

### ECONOMY

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions that a comprehensive incomes policy was not a practical possibility for the Government. She said that other societies had had to choose between the direction of labour and the extinction of freedom.

Mr Denis Healey (Bristol, Lab) asked if she was prepared to meet a representative group of business in respect of the new wage controls.

Mrs Thatcher: Current wage claims are not negotiated through my office. I understand that the business community is setting up a group to discuss the matter. At a meeting last week with the Secretary of State for Social Services the staff side of the Nurses' and Midwives' Union Council again asked if I would see them. I have therefore agreed to see them tomorrow.

Mr Skinner: Will the Government remain committed to continue the improvement of the 15.2 per cent increase in the wages and prices index? Is it not a scandal that at a time when the Government is increasing the rate of inflation to 15.2 per cent, when there are many other price increases in the pipeline and when we have had the highest inflation by the law lords and a Tory Council to push up fares, nurses should be treated in this fashion?

Mrs Thatcher: This Government has made clear that it holds the nurses in high esteem. In the past three years the average pay has risen by 76 per cent. It is a matter of 76 per cent increase in the nurses' pay bill.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Bristol, Lib): There is a danger that responsible groups in society, like nurses, who do not resort to strikes, are being penalised while we develop a fair and comprehensive incomes policy.

Mrs Thatcher: I do not think there is any such practicable possibility as a comprehensive incomes policy. In societies where it has happened, it has led to the worst of all worlds: a society in which only with direction of labour and the extinction of freedom.

Mr Paul Dean (North Somerset, C): Will the Government be prepared to meet a representative group of business in respect of the new wage controls?

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## Indicators pointing to growth

### ECONOMY

Increased industrial and manufacturing production in recent months pointed to continued growth of national output, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said during questions in the Commons.

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## Howe rules out insurance surcharge cut

### ECONOMY

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was urged by MPs of three parties, including his own, to reduce the insurance surcharge in order to help the economy and the increase in demand which would follow from the reduction of the order of magnitude that has been suggested.

Mr Geoffrey Howe: He is right to draw attention to that fact. A reduction in interest rates is certainly something to which any government should be open. But it is not a matter of the order of magnitude that has been suggested. It is a matter of the order of magnitude that has been suggested.

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## Next week

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

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The Government's security policy was based on the simple premise that those who broke the law of the community must be dealt with by the courts.

It was inevitable that people would turn their minds to extra-legal or draconian measures, but this was not the way forward. The innocent would suffer disproportionately from such measures and the police and Army would lose the popular support they so crucially needed to do their job.

If the police and Army appeared to be above the law the paramilitaries would set themselves up as the only law enforcement agency. The Government was asking people to reject paramilitary solutions to political questions and would give them the pretext for claiming popular approval or the chance to set up a civil system of law enforcement.

Active repudiation of violence was only likely to come about when the two communities were able to recognize each other's different aspirations and loyalties and to live together as close and good neighbours and live with the Irish Republic as close and good neighbours.

This meant political movement. It meant giving and taking and recognition that neither community was likely to win its way by the other's sword.

I am confident (he said) in the ability of the security forces to contain violence. Only a new deal for Northern Ireland and a change of heart with Northern Ireland has a chance of seriously diminishing the violence. The security forces must not be distracted from their task by people wishing to take the law into their own hands or threatening to do so.

None of the discussions of arrangements between London and Dublin, posed any threat to Northern Ireland's position as a constituent part of the United Kingdom. The Government was determined to bring about a settlement in Northern Ireland that would be a great deal to gain.

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## Carrington disappointed at EEC progress

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It was not to the Community's credit that they had been unable to meet the deadline set by the May 30 mandate, nor that after six years of discussion and five meetings of British ministers during the British presidency, they had not been able to agree on the non-life insurance services directive. Foreign minister had been unable to agree on important measures relating to telecommunications because of disagreement over the need to protect the British telecommunications industry (the went on) the tension and

## Howe rules out insurance surcharge cut

### ECONOMY

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was urged by MPs of three parties, including his own, to reduce the insurance surcharge in order to help the economy and the increase in demand which would follow from the reduction of the order of magnitude that has been suggested.

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## Next week

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

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## THE ARTS

## Television

## Witty investigation of the party line

"Heezy my boy friend," Bonham Carter rode the switchback of English class, culture and environment as smoothly as if it were not there — thus, of course, revealing its structure to perfection. From upper crust Gloucestershire we plunged (if that is the word) to Juliette Coste's circus birthday in the family big top with lots of old-fashioned rowdy, dashabout games on chairs. Up we went again to prep school in Oxford, where Charlie Roberts received a cricket-pitch cake with thick green icing and shared crumbling corners of the outfield with little chums all learning to behave like their fathers; and then down, very sharply, to Skindie's Disco, where the potential Pretty Babies of Maidenhead spent Slough as joyfully hurled into premature adolescence by a process called a Complete Entertainment Package applied with standardized thoroughness to Debbie, Melina and Tina alike.

Best of all was Dominic Sewell's Violin Party, where infant phenomena in north-west London were induced to pursue an elaborate floor game of cards and memorabilia in which personal standards of musical performance were the criterion of success. The most vicious penalty you could incur was "Play opponent's choice of Vivaldi", and several children ran into the garden as one tiny virtuoso after another emulated the sound said by Rudolf Serkin to have been drawn from his fiddle by Einstein himself: skreek-skeek-skeek.

There was a quick round three other parties (fete champêtre by a lake, jelly high tea in a semi, and more than a mile of tables, tumblers and Toby dogs playing dead in Oxford Street for the Royal Wedding) and a delicious, touching and witty film came to an end. It deserves great success all round the world.

Michael Ratcliffe

## Dance

## Romeo and Juliet

## Covent Garden

Jennifer Penney has had to wait a long time for her first Juliet, which finally came at Covent Garden on Wednesday. It is not surprising that her singularly limpid style, which lets the movements speak for themselves without imposing a heavy personal interpretation on them, should have led to her being cast often in roles where her smooth, flowing technique was the prime consideration. But she has several times shown that her limpidity can work equally well to display a dramatic role, and this was no exception.

The childishness of the heroine in the opening scenes of MacMillan's ballet does little for Penney; this is where the dancer needs to force credibility into an improbable situation, and that is probably not within her range. The second act of the work has little for Juliet, so it was in the last third of the evening that she really made a strong impact.

Surprisingly, the quality she brought out most strongly in Juliet was vehemence: in the way she grappled Romeo to her in an effort to prevent his leaving; in her anger at her father's bullying, even in the way she finally stabbed herself. Her face keeps its placid surface

John Percival

**London Festival Ballet**

**The Nutcracker**

Music by Tchaikovsky

**Christmas Season**  
26 Dec 1981-13 Jan 1982

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Tickets £8, £7, £6, £5, £4, £3  
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A bold, disturbing picture...  
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**NOW SHOWING**

**Camden**

## Lumet's sophisticated view of corruption

## Prince of the City (X)

## Warner West End 3

## Lady Chatterley's Lover (X)

## Leicester Square Theatre

## Arthur (AA)

## Warner West End 2

## The Eye of the Needle (AA)

## Odeon, Leicester Square

## Heavy Metal (AA)

## Selected Odeons and Classics

Sidney Lumet arrived from television a quarter of a century ago, bursting portentously into films with his still admirable *Twelve Angry Men*. Since then his career has been uneven, embracing the awful (*The Witness*), the kind of art that is seen to be done (*The Pawnbroker*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*), the dully conventional (*The Seagull*, *Murder on the Orient Express*), the flashy and metacritical (*Network*). There is no question of his energy, though, or that his best work has fairly consistently been in films, like *Serpico* and *Dog Day Afternoon*, located and shot in his native New York and with real subjects.

*Prince of the City* is very much a companion piece to *Serpico*, set in the same locale and period (the early Seventies), firmly based on facts, and again about a policeman informing on corruption in the force. The book on which the film is based is the story of Bob Leuci, a New York detective assigned to the elite Special Investigation Unit — fancy rather than plain-clothes policemen, with special duties, special privileges and special opportunities for profitable side-lines.

Leuci, however, was recruited as an undercover agent for the federal investigation into police corruption and links with the Mafia. His initial condition was that he would not be required to inform upon his own friends and colleagues; but his story exemplifies how this kind of involvement has the same ineluctable quicksand quality that is traditionally credited to a life of crime. Whimsically one of the characters in the film quotes De Quincey: "If once a man indulges himself in murder, very soon he comes to think little of robbing, and from robbing he



Toughness and moral fragility: Trest Williams in "Prince of the City"

comes next to drinking and Sabbath-breaking."

Leuci found himself not only betraying his own friends, but entering the confidential himself (it is no accident, Lumet points out, that a Catholic should best suit the job). Ostracized by his colleagues, hunted by the Mafia whose operations his revelations had disrupted, Leuci and his family ended up dependent on day and night bodyguards.

Lumet and his co-scenarist Jay Presson Allen call their hero Leuci; other characters are called Jack, or even just "the guy". This is a lengthy, complex narrative is a drastic simplification of Leuci's adventures. Still, there is no reason to question the authenticity of the story; indeed, a large part of the dialogue is actual transcript from the hours of tape recorded from the miniature radio transmitter Leuci wore concealed on his person.

Trest Williams's Leuci is credible and credible. He is charming; but the real Leuci himself could hardly have succeeded without being pretty ingratiating. He conveys the necessary combination of toughness and moral fragility, of outward brashness and inner timidity. Lumet, whose most accomplished and sophisticated work this may well be, presents all the complex moral issues, all the fuzziest distinctions between law and crime, ends and means; but strenuously resists the

temptations of easy judgment or didactic conclusion.

It would be an error, and foolish snobbery, to underestimate Just Jackin's merits as film-maker simply because he established his career with *Emmanuelle* and *L'histoire d'O* and has now made *Lady Chatterley's Lover* under the auspices of Messrs Golan and Globus, producers not very remarkable for taste or discrimination. *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is, in this context, an agreeable surprise. It is weighed down neither by the literary pretensions that have dogged other Lawrence adaptations nor by the soft-core eroticism that has become the director's speciality.

The adaptation (Jackin and his English co-scenarist Christopher Wickham have gone back to Lawrence's first version, *The First Lady Chatterley*) is a well-structured melodrama, which puts a keen new edge on the class element in Lawrence's fable. The film has gone a long way towards characters, if not deep, are sharply drawn; the period and the atmosphere of a great country house (played by Wrotham Park), in the tough times between wars, is finely evoked; and the erotism is skilful, discreet, germane — and generally erotic. To any objection that it is not exactly Lawrence, the answer is: Why should it be, since we already have Lawrence, whereas this is a picture, and a lively one at that?

Like her director, Sylvia Kristel

shows that *Emmanuelle* did not exhaust all her resources. Her voice is dubbed, so well as positively to enhance the performance. Nicholas Clay is a suitably rugged and enticing Mellors; Shane Briant's Sir Clifford intimates neuroses not quite concealed by the surfaces of gentlemanly behaviour; and Ann Mitchell is a wonderfully ambivalent Mrs Bolton. For the record, this is only the second film version of the book: the first, also released by Columbia Pictures, was made in France in 1956 with Danielle Darrieux and Leo Genn. The noble lady's name was, however, taken in vain from time to time in porno pictures of the Seventies boom.

Eighty years or so ago, in Berlin, Vienna, Budapest or Paris, the opera kings and opera hawks kept turning out the same old story about the prince who falls in love with a showgirl or shopgirl or some other social inferior. His father and the inevitable dowager grumpy threaten to disinherit him if he does not marry the princess of their choice; but love finds a way.

Arthur is the same old tale, except that, since there are no princes in America, Arthur is heir to a billion-dollar hierarchy. The fact he loves (Lisa Minelli) is both showgirl and shop-lifter. To prove that audiences are as good natured as ever and that you cannot keep an old story down, *Arthur*, with its supremely happy end (he gets the girl and the money), has proved

one of the biggest American box-office successes of the year.

Dudley Moore, as Arthur, does a prolonged drunk scene; and nobody bothers to explain why an all-American family should spawn this middle-aged cockney elf who lapses in his cups into the speech fashions of Steptoe Junior, John Gielgud, as Arthur's scolding but doting valet, provides the film's best comic bit, handling the four-letter vulgarities of the script with the air of a charitable visitor sorting the soiled linen in a slum home. The film was both written and directed by a newcomer, Steve Gordon.

There is something very old-world, too, about *The Eye of the Needle*; indeed the antiquity of the plot — it is the kind of thing John Gielgud or John Gielgud, as Arthur's scolding but doting valet, provides the film's best comic bit, handling the four-letter vulgarities of the script with the air of a charitable visitor sorting the soiled linen in a slum home. The film was both written and directed by a newcomer, Steve Gordon.

These three films themselves thrown together on a remote Scottish island which enjoys conveniently sympathetic weather (sunshine for romantic picnics, arctic storms for shipwrecks and high drama). There is a violent discomfiture and a happy ending leaving us to marvel that Ian Bannen and the British security forces, having taken four years to pursue the villain from London to Scotland, finally manage to arrive in the nick of time. It was directed by Richard Marquand, who rises best to the action sequences.

*Heavy Metal* must set some kind of record for the length of its credits. A thousand people are said to have worked on this episodic animation feature, which takes its title from a popular American fantasy magazine. Teams of various nationalities provided individual stories, coordinated by Gerald Potterton and with an overall screenplay by Dan Goldberg and Len Blum, writers of the execrable *Meatballs*. The linking motif is a luminous green jewel, "the sum of all evil."

The pity is that all the effort and craft is expended on tales of fantasy that have less cohesion and direction than the standard comic strip. It is all pop mysticism, pepped up with sex and violence, sadomasochism and burgeoning female sex-machines that should induce a certain amount of the mildest feminist. There is a strong musical score by Elmer Bernstein, with hard rock interpolations. The result is the sort of vision that is probably very stirring when viewed in a narcotic-induced high; but, contrarily, in that condition the animation is liable to be overlooked.

David Robinson

## Theatre

## A vein of comedy

## Dracula

## Albery

"Blood confusions" is Dr Van Helsing's prescription in *Dracula*, Michael Bogdanov's gory Christmas now at the Albery Theatre for matinees. With the subtitle "A Pain in the Neck", with a "bat man" at the entrance to the auditorium which has been impregnated with garlic to protect the soles of the spectators; with the sale of gingerbread crosses for the very nervous; it is quickly obvious how seriously Mr Bogdanov has approached this tale of terror.

For the extremely nervous there are even chunks of raw garlic for the asking, and the eating, but as Count Dracula points out, a vampire who has been roughened up to make them more natural. In spite of that care in presentation, and the marked animation of the ensemble players, the surroundings are all decoration; only the central characters count for much. That is one reason why MacMillan's ballets on television than on stage, as his *Isadora*, postponed from Wednesday night, will doubtless show when eventually screened.

John Percival

## Captain Beaky's Musical Christmas

## Apollo

In subways, and on walls and pavements, wherever graffiti grow, there suddenly appeared the legend: "Bissing Sid was here." For those without a devotion to the disc jockey Noel Edmonds, it was something of a mystery. He had championed a song by Jeremy Lloyd which told of a merry band of birds, bats, toads and rats and their adventures with the snake Bissing Sid. Listeners reported sightings and from little cults a major industry has grown.

Two record albums, two television specials, Captain Beaky books and now a BBC-sponsored excursion into the West End theatre are the fruits of Mr Lloyd's labours, and Jim Parker's musical settings for his endearing series of poems have attracted such performers as Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe, Petula Clark and Penelope Keith. If there were no merits to the childhood rhymes, the West End would still be a brighter place for the enmeshed talents of Keith Mitchell, Twigg, Eleanor

Ned Chaillet

Bron and Mr Lloyd as they read, sing and dance the stories. But the rhymes have the merit of enchantment.

Enchantment is also a quality that comes with the appearance of Twigg, who has become an irresistible performer: a singer with a sweet expressive voice, and elegance of movement and a poignancy in her speech. When she sings of Fred the Cockney sparrow and his French bird, Marguerite, she runs the range of emotions from sorrow and happiness to nostalgic regret; these nursery rhymes bear full adult emotions in her performance, and they bring laughter.

Mr Mitchell has illustrated the performance with drawings and sketches of wit: at times he brings the operatic range of his voice to the impersonation of a canary and Miss Bron contributes several of her accounts of speech and song with precise applications of humour. It is a singing, dancing, joking concert against sensitive musical arrangements but a fly that can do *The Times* crossword deserves a less sickly end than Mr Lloyd allows.

Ned Chaillet

## A Christmas Carol

## Sadler's Wells

As in previous years, the Royal Opera has staged a Christmas production outside Covent Garden. Earlier shows were operas chiefly for children. Thea Musgrave's version of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* has some children in the cast, but more adults. It is likely to appeal to both categories during its performances for the rest of this week, at Sadler's Wells in Rosebery Avenue, and on Radio 3 on New Year's Day.

It tells the story quite clearly, to unpretentious, evocative music, largely traditional in idiom. The scenery, costumes and production brought to London from Norfolk, Virginia, where the work was first given two Christmases ago, work well: the English costumes change hands during the week, with the original American Scrooge, is intelligently chosen, and the London Sinfonietta play the score handsomely for Peter Mark, another importation from Virginia, who conducted the premiere and is the composer's husband.

Those who know Dickens's story must admire Musgrave's adaptation, for the characters are so vividly contrived to include, by much duplication of parts — Elizabeth Bainbridge sings Mrs Fezziwig, Mrs Cratchit, and three other parts.

I admire too Musgrave's feeling for the character of the book, evinced in the scenes chosen, and the text added to what Dickens gave her in the way of dialogue. You may feel, as I did, that

## Musgrave in time-honoured style



Frederick Burchinal (left) and Robin Leggate

the second half dwells longer on its content than the first, or else that, if some earlier scenes, such as the separation of Belle and Ben, had been less extended (it contains some of the most attractive music), the later ones might not have hung on the very end we need less of Fred's Christmas party and rather more of the Cratchits.

The Spirit of Christmas is dramatically interpreted by one dancer, Murray Melvin, just as Marley's Ghost is a spoken role: both are extravagantly projected, and Mel-

vin's florid-camp Christmas came easily be taken seriously. Musgrave's music for *A Christmas Carol* retreats, even more firmly than in her preceding opera, *Mary Queen of Scots*, from the firmly time-orientated idiom of her instrumental music dramas (the concertos for clarinet and for horn, for example) or *The Voice of Ariadne*, which seems to me her finest opera.

It can be only coincidence that she has made this step backward, in terms of musical language, alongside Ian

Hamilton, another Scot resident in the United States, whose *Amadeus*, at the Coliseum, recently, also included in backward musical time-travelling. She makes the journey more discreetly than he, using "God rest ye merry, gentlemen" as a structural lynchpin, and winning cheerful, compassionate music for the party scenes.

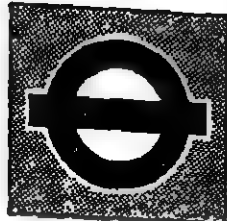
The part of Scrooge is a gratifying one for a strong character-baroness, as Frederick Burchinal, left, no doubt Jonathan Summers shares it with her; it has the drawback that, for most of the action, he is personally uninvolved, a mere spectator of the past events which have caused his present unsociability. Burchinal, and his producer, David Farrer, skilfully keep this obstacle largely out of mind.

Farrer makes it a jolly, colourful, Christmas show, the crowd scenes properly festive and energetic, much of the credit due to Miguel Romero's practical, mobile, pleasing scenery. Sandra Dugdale is a delicious Fanny, Elidene, Harry, a rather prim but attractive Belle. Robin Leggate is just the tenor for Bob Cratchit, and Forbes Robinson looks properly Dickensian in several parts, though his big, red mustache does not suit Mr Fezziwig. The programme cover, I will not deny Musgrave's *Christmas Carol* it has almost everything in its favour, given expert presentation. I hope she will write another serious opera, more representative of her particular creative talent, very soon.

William Mann

Stanley Sadie





Cheap fares subsidised by the rates were ruled illegal by the Law Lords yesterday in a case brought against the Greater London Council. But public transport in the congested big cities must compete with private cars. How do other cities do it? Michael Bailey reports.

## Who can unravel the big city knot?

The Lords may have settled the legal dispute over the Greater London Council's cheap fares policy, but the larger questions remain. How high should London's fares be, and how much should they be subsidised? Those are essentially political and economic questions, and cannot be settled by judges. If necessary the law will have to be changed to allow the political judgments to be made.

When they are, it will perhaps be found that the Labour GLC was travelling in broadly the right direction, but took a disastrously wrong route. The direction was right because it sought to make more attractive a public transport system which the capital needs to function well, and that might without positive steps become steadily less so.

The route was wrong because it piled a huge burden on the rates merely to bring about cheaper fares rather than to provide the better transport service Londoners would have valued more.

It was a costly, wasteful, and inefficient way to achieve a good end, and that is perhaps because the Labour caucus was guided more by electoral than transport calculations.

### Car commuting will always be cheaper

Some good may come of the dispute however, if as a result the damaging extent of the polarization of transport policy in London is perceived, and a start made towards a more bipartisan policy of positive, consistent development of the system.

On the Continent, to whose example our attention is constantly being directed, this polarization between high and low fares and public and private transport hardly exists.

Roads and public transport are improved together, and the various modes integrated rather than put in conflict.

It was once so here, and could be so again given the political will. For, contrary to the impression given by Lord Denning and others in recent weeks, the subsidising of public transport has been accepted policy in Britain for nearly 20 years, and was in fact started not by Labour but the Conservatives.

This happened in a watershed year, 1963, when the rise in postwar cars reached the point at which previous profitable public transport was rendered unviable; and when two seminal contributions to the debate that still continues appeared.

One was the famous Traffic in Towns or Buchanan Report, which enunciated that since the capacity of towns to accommodate traffic was finite, the authorities had a choice between accommodating it at heavy expense in new roads and other structures, or limiting it through parking and other restrictions on road traffic. Relatively cheap and convenient public transport, for which subsidy would be necessary, was one of the most important instruments of the latter policy.

The other was Foster and Beesley's Victoria Line Study into LT's cherished plan for a new tube; that had already been turned down in three successive years because its £60m cost could not be justified by potential

Britain to equate Continental practice with virtue, and British (at any rate under the Conservatives) with vice.

This overlooks the undoubted fact that fares subsidies are a costly and inefficient way of helping public transport, and that these policies in Europe were not deliberately virtuous or even necessarily deliberate.

Often, as in Britain, they were the result of management weakness in the face of over-manning and union intransigence, and of political reluctance to impose unpopular fare rises to pay for it.

Continental administrations have been increasingly unhappy about the huge cost of fares subsidies, especially in the past three years. Further doubt on the effectiveness of subsidies alone as a means of influencing urban transport is cast by an expert study carried out by Britain's Transport and Road Research Laboratory for the European Conference of Transport Ministers in 1979.

One of its more startling conclusions based on analyses from 12 European states and additional data from the United States, Canada, and New Zealand, was that even if buses were free, car commuting would still be "cheaper" for many people if the kind of social benefits used for the Victoria Line



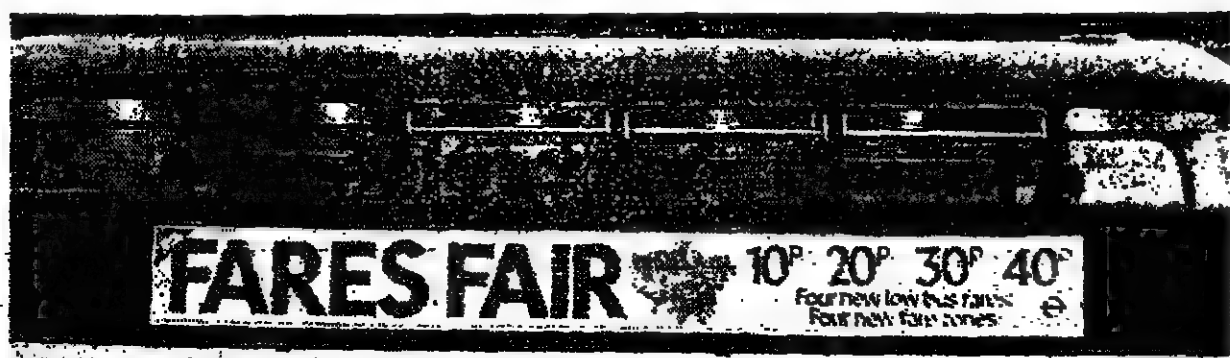
study were taken into account.

For a two kilometre journey to work, the cost of a car came out at 14p, compared with 44p for the bus at normal fares; over 5 km it was 24p for the car and 55p for the bus; over 15 km it was 57p for the car and 91p for the bus.

In London the lack of productivity seems particularly evident. LT's workforce remained static at about 60,000 throughout the 1970s despite the introduction of one-man buses and trains, and a drop of about one tenth in bus passenger-miles, and nearly a fifth in tube passenger-miles. Productivity in Paris appears to be nearly double that in London, with each staff member producing about 170,000 passengers

miles compared with 90,000 in London. No wonder Sir Horace Cudger was concerned to unearth shift-workers at LT garages who spent the entire night in bed.

Paris has cheaper public transport than London, but more importantly it is better. Not only is the Metro now more frequent, clean, and reliable, but interchange between modes is so much better, as are ticket arrangements and information to passengers. This is the fruit of many years of high capital investment, consistent policy, and dedicated management, as well as a cheap fares policy. Above all perhaps it is the fruit of an integrated policy towards transport rather than the adversarial one that has developed in London.



Ken Livingstone appealed against Lord Denning's ruling and lost

diverted into coping with a wild gyrations of policy in whose permanence given the swings and roundabouts of the GLC, they can have little confidence.

One way to escape from the trap would be to admit that GLC politicians are too small-minded to cope with such a large responsibility. But to return the problem of London Transport to Department of Transport control might produce not only more consistency, but also the torpor which seemed to afflict it before.

Another solution would be a Passenger Transport Authority, responsible for all forms of transport in the Greater London area as in the provincial conurbations. But this could spawn yet another empire-building bureaucracy, topped by politicians still pursuing sectional interests.

### People will pay for service

It should not be necessary to set up a large unwieldy body to achieve the kind of integrated thinking that has prevailed elsewhere; it is primarily a change in attitude rather than structure that is needed, with closer collaboration between central and local government, and between the different operators.

London Transport and British Rail have already shown the way with a new joint "think tank" chaired by the two Sir Peters, charged with integrating ticketing, timetables interchange, and fares. It should be possible for Whitehall and County Hall to work similarly towards agreed objectives.

What should these be? Obviously fares and subsidies will always be a point of friction between left and right, but something closer to consensus should be possible if it is put down the scale of priorities where it belongs.

Professor Christopher Foster, co-author of the Victoria Line study, says: "Current policy is a logical

development of Victoria Line thinking in that it recognizes that cheap fares can be used to get traffic from cars to public transport.

"But although the principle is surely right, subsidies can be overdone. One has to say that the level of subsidies London now has is probably rather ineffective, especially in the absence of parking and traffic restrictions."

The fallacy of the Labour GLC was to put everything into one policy, and not the best one at that. Naturally people prefer to pay 10p for something than 30p; but many were quite prepared to pay 30p, especially if the service is good. All the market research shows passenger preference to be for reliability, frequency, punctuality, convenience, comfort, cleanliness, rather than cheapness.

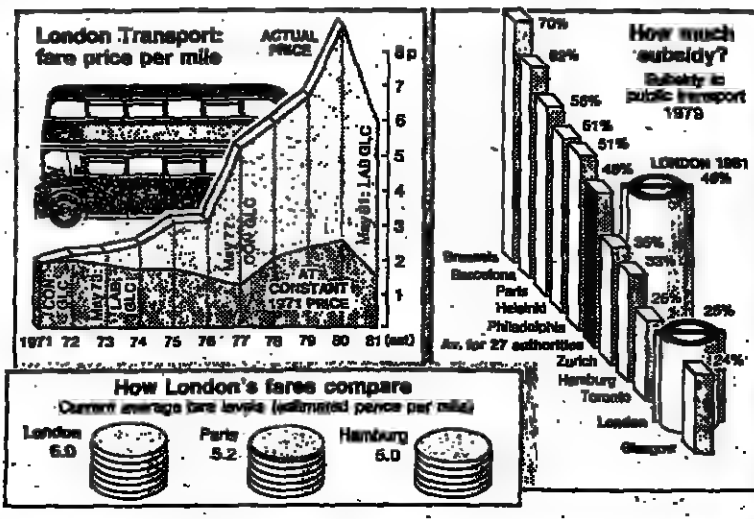
One million pounds spent on reducing intervals between buses and trains, on better connections between them, and on the resources that ensure they actually turn up at the advertised time, is better spent than on a marginal cut in fares (LT's 30 per cent cut has produced little over ten per cent more passengers).

These should be the priorities of a new transport regime, along with car-planned road improvement and the tougher restrictions on car commuting advocated all that time ago by Buchanan.

When sound steps have been taken to develop a more attractive and integrated transport system for London, it will be possible to take a more informed view as the optimum level of fares and subsidies.

No doubt it will fall somewhere between Cudger and Livingstone; a level that recognizes both the benefits of cheap fares and the heavy financial burden they impose on other aspects of the life of the capital; a level perhaps that is both social and democratic.

Michael Bailey is The Times Transport Correspondent.



# Advertisers of slimming products have to use self control.

Slimming is one of many areas in advertising which is carefully watched. And any advertisement for slimming products must comply with the rules on the right.

They are just some of the rules affecting slimming advertising and they appear in a book called the British Code of Advertising Practice. In it are many rules, not just affecting slimming.

They govern all advertisements which appear in the press, in direct mail, in print, on posters and cinema commercials.

The Code is used by the Advertising Standards Authority whose job it is to protect the public from unacceptable advertising.

It was set up and is financed by the advertising industry although it works entirely independently of it.

Amongst other things, the ASA responds to consumers' complaints and this briefly is the way the system works. Members of the public can write to us to complain about any advertisement they find unacceptable. If, after investigation,

- Appendix C Advertising for 'Slimming'**
- Weight loss
- 21 The only way for a person to lose weight, other than temporarily by burning up the excess fat his body has stored. A diet is the only practicable self-treatment for achieving a reduction in this excess fat. Diet plans, and aids to dieting of the kinds dealt with herein, are therefore the only products which may be offered in advertisements as capable of effecting any loss in weight. Claims, whether direct or indirect, that weight loss can be achieved by any other means are not acceptable in advertisements addressed to the general public.
  - 22 Temporary weight loss can be achieved by the expulsion of water from the body. This may not be represented in advertisements as a method of slimming.
  - 23 Overweight in young people is sometimes associated with a defective action of the glands and it is therefore desirable that they should be advised either in the advertisement or on the pack to consult their doctors before embarking upon a slimming diet.
  - 24 Obesity is a condition requiring medical attention and treatment. No claims referring to obesity are admissible in advertisements directed to the general public see Appendix D.
  - 25.1 Where a diet plan is advertised, the advertiser should be able to substantiate that his suggested diet(s) will provide adequate amounts of proteins, vitamins and minerals, and that the diet is capable of achieving the results claimed for it, when followed by the kind of person for whom it is intended.
  - 25.2 No claim, direct or indirect, should be made in any advertisement for a diet that it contains any ingredient which in itself has the property of hastening the process of weight loss. All foods have some calorie content and in a balanced diet it will be necessary to have foods with higher and lower calorie levels. There is no ground for supposing that any specific foods have particular properties which speed up the metabolic processes which cause excess fat to be 'burnt-up' and weight to be lost.
  - 25.3 Advertisements for 'crash' diets are unacceptable.
  - Aids to dieting: general
  - 26.1 Diet aids, such as foods, food substitutes, or appetite depressants, may not be advertised except in terms which make clear that they can only be effective when taken in conjunction with or as part of a calorie-controlled diet. Due prominence should be given therefore in all advertisements to the part played by the diet.

- 26.2 The Labelling of Food Regulations 1970 require that, where a claim is made in an advertisement or on a label that any food is an aid to slimming, it must be substantiated, and a statement must be included that the food cannot aid slimming except as part of a diet in which the total intake of calories is controlled, whether by calorie counting, low carbohydrate/high protein or other means.
- 26.3 Any diets whether on pack, in advertisements or otherwise provided in conjunction with diet aids, will be required to conform to the aforementioned advice on diet plans, and details of the diets proposed should therefore be enclosed, with appropriate substantiation, when the advertising is being submitted for clearance.
- 26.4 Advertisements for diet aids should also conform to the advice already given as to the non-acceptability of certain claims for the individual effectiveness of specific foods or other diet ingredients.
- Foods
- 27.1 Advertisements for foods offered as diet aids should make clear in what way they contribute to the diet, e.g. whether the particular food is lower in calories than its conventional equivalent on a weight for weight basis, or a slice for slice basis.
- 27.2 Particular care should be taken to ensure that advertisements for meal substitutes do not imply that these products are effective if eaten in addition to normal meals rather than instead of them.
- Appetite depressants
- 28.1 Advertisements for appetite depressants should make clear how they work and will only be regarded as acceptable when adequate evidence has been provided by advertisers that the product is safe and effective at the level of consumption suggested.
- 28.2 Claims for the effect of appetite depressants should not be expressed in terms of food equivalent, e.g. equal to two eggs and ham.
- Weight loss products in general
- 29 No 'weight loss' products should be advertised on the basis of claims such as 'Eat as much as you like, Eat, eat, eat!', 'Eat and get slim' or anything similar tending to remove due emphasis from the primary importance of maintaining a balanced calorie-controlled diet.

we find the advertisement contravenes the Code, we instruct the advertiser to amend or withdraw it.

If you would like to know more about the Code, or about us, or if you have any cause to complain about an advertisement,

we'd like to hear from you. If an advertiser breaks one of the rules, we don't let him get off lightly.

**The Advertising Standards Authority.**  
**If an advertisement is wrong,**  
**we're here to put it right.**  
ASA Ltd., Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN.



David Watt

# Poland: where we differ from Reagan

It has been widely assumed, especially in the United States, that a major crisis in Poland would result in the western alliance more effectively than any number of blueprints and ministerial conferences. Five days of Polish military dictatorship have indicated how illusory that assumption is. The western powers have not exhibited the total disarray that followed the Afghanistan crisis and have officially managed so far to maintain a fairly uniform posture of "wait and see". What has been significant and alarming, however, is the divergence of underlying instincts and assumptions. The longer the crisis continues the more open and dangerous these dangers seem likely to become.

In general there are two different but equally valid ways of reacting to the Polish events. If one looks at the world in moral terms, what has happened is a tragedy about freedom, power and shattered hopes. The duty of the West is to register its outrage and punish the perpetrators to the full extent of its ability.

If one thinks in terms of global politics, however, the clampdown is more forgivable and may almost be seen as a relief because it is a lesser evil than a full-scale Russian invasion. If the creation of a banana republic dictatorship is the only way the Poles can cling to the last tatters of national independence, it is a price worth paying.

It makes an important difference whether the soldiers in the Warsaw streets are Polish rather than Russian, not just because the Poles themselves find it more tolerable to their pride but also because it does not violate the convention of national sovereignty and so gives us a legitimate excuse to avoid the slide back towards

cold war that for other reasons we wish to avoid.

The moralist is entitled to point out that a lot of this is humbug. The reality is that the new regime would not have come into being and Solidarity would not have been snuffed out if it had not been for Russian pressure, that there is no serious prospect, whatever may be said at present, of the march to a more democratic policy in Poland being renewed under the new dispensation; and that a lot of people are now going to be incarcerated and probably subjected to inhuman treatment for political reasons directly connected with their attitude to the Soviet Union and the communist system.

The new regime is not government by consent; the only thing that can be said for it is that the amount of force required to squelch out dissent is marginally smaller than if the Russians had done the job themselves. To this accusation *realpolitik* can only respond that while the distinctions may be unreal, it is a politically useful one. The idea of imposing economic and political sanctions on the new Poland is unattractive because it would drive the military still further into the arms of the Russians.

Still less appealing is the notion of equating the Poles with the Russians and unfolding the whole panoply of western sanctions prepared in case of Soviet intervention. Not only would that leave nothing for Nato leverage on the Russians; it would mean that all hopes of preventing a new arms race were abandoned.

The United States, perhaps from circumstances of its birth, has always had a strong moralist slant in its foreign policy. There was nothing new or startling in this

The western alliance could come under new strain because of conflicting attitudes to the military take-over in Warsaw — America's instinctive desire for a tough response, pragmatic caution by her European partners

sense about the behaviour and policies of President Wilson or President Carter. Equally, it is not surprising that President Reagan, after an initial period of pragmatic reserve, has recently been assailed by growing doubts about how far he can allow the changes in Poland to occur without strong reaction. His desire to continue a dialogue with the Russians is at odds with his political necessity — to avoid any appearance of condoning communist repression.

The European reaction, overall, has been more in the *realpolitik* tradition. Of course there have been loud and entirely genuine denunciations of the Polish military action from EEC governments and even from western communist parties, and the tactical necessity of maintaining pressure on the Russians is very much in everyone's mind. Nevertheless the willingness to separate disapproval from strong action is discernible.

As usual, the West Germans are the hinge of the argument. Chancellor Schmidt was still in East Germany on his long heralded, long postponed fraternal visit to Erich Honecker when the Polish news broke. He quietly completed his programme and left for the West with expressions of hope for the future of inter-German re-

lations. He was rapidly castigated by Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, whose advice that he should have stormed out in protest does not seem to have raised many echoes. That is hardly surprising, given the prevailing climate (confirmed for me by a visit to Bonn last week). West German public opinion is deeply concerned about Poland, about East-West relations and about relations between Europe and the USA. But the essential core of the West German position in relation to the East remains untouched and virtually bi-partisan. This consists of three propositions:

(a) Detente is a good thing because it is the only condition that enables the two Germanys (and the two Berlins) to co-exist in a half-civilized fashion.

(b) Detente, particularly East-West trade, creates as much East block dependency on the West as western dependency on the Soviet Union and should therefore be encouraged even under — perhaps particularly under — adverse political circumstances.

(c) West German belief in the two preceding propositions does not imply disloyalty to Nato, "neutrality", "self-finlandization", a secret desire to sell out the alliance to the Russians in return for reunification or any of the other manifestations of paranoia now

appearing in the American press. West Germany still depends on the US for its security and still believes in (and is paying for) a strong conventional army. As for reunification, the Russians themselves will not permit it on any terms for a century.

The trouble with these views is first that being expressions of belief and perception, they cannot be permanently invalidated by what happens in Poland in the coming weeks any more than they were by events in Afghanistan. And second that there is not a single one of them that the present American administration endorses unreservedly.

If the Americans could only accept the validity of (c) it would not matter so much. The West Germans might be safely left to get as much out of their relationship with the East as they could (and it would not be very much) provided their military support for Nato continued. But the Americans in their present mood want more psychological reassurance than that, and because they rightly suspect that the rest of the European allies, already prone to excessive pragmatism and self-deception where East-West relations are concerned, are to a greater or lesser degree influenced by the German example, they jump us all together as unreliable.

If the Russians should march into Poland in a month or two as the Jaruzelski experiment fosters there will be no difficulty for the allies in imposing the American view on the alliance, but the cross-currents that have appeared in the last week will still be there and will surely reassert themselves quite quickly.

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## Tebbit dynamite that must be defused

by Bill Keys

On Wednesday I led a TUC delegation which met Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, to impress on him the trade union movement's outright rejection of his proposed new industrial relations legislation. We spent our time on the one hand giving the impression that there is widespread objection to join unions and frequent victimisation of non-unionists. Not so, in fact, there are no more than a handful of such cases each year, as experience under the legislation from 1971 to 1976 showed.

Second, to offer up to £24,000 to anyone if they display "unprincipled" behaviour, enough to get sacked is a deliberate attempt to give financial incentives to people to leave or not to join unions. And to expect other workers to stand by quietly and see their union forced to pay amounts of this size to people who are being deliberately awkward or greedy is unrealistic. The inevitable result will be considerable dissension

grounds can claim unfair dismissal.

I am not entirely surprised by this. The improvement of industrial relations seems to be well down the Employment Secretary's list of priorities. Instead, the motivation behind his proposals seems to be only to place swinging legal restrictions on the ability of trade unions to organise and operate effectively, irrespective of the consequences for British industry.

I do not accept for a minute that there is force in the argument being used by



Mr Keys (left) and Mr Tebbit: "Still not too late to avoid an unnecessary conflict"

the Government that its measures have the support of a majority of the population. I know all about opinion polls, which are paraded as upholding that view but I know what the response of workers would be to the question of whether they approve action to reduce the rights of their unions and to curtail their ability to maintain their jobs.

When the realization of the dangers of this proposed legislation sinks in (and the unions and the TUC will be bending all their efforts to get the message across) I am convinced that there will be a sense of outrage and resentment among workers which will manifest itself in powerful opposition to these proposed laws.

The Government is clearly under-estimating the degree of opposition it will face. It is gambling on the trade union movement not being able to get a head of steam behind its campaign against the proposals such as occurred in 1970-71 against the Industrial Relations Bill.

The Government is no doubt assuming that the movement has been weakened and demoralized by high unemployment and loss of membership. It is banking on the fact that its proposals are even more complex and difficult to grasp than the 1971 legislation.

But the main proposals in Mr Tebbit's package are dynamite. Any of them, if used, could blow a company's industrial relations sky-high. Take the proposals attacking 100 per cent membership in a workplace. There is already substantial opposition to an individual worker being sacked because of non-membership of a union; under the Employment Act, 1980 a person dismissed for refusing to join a union on widely drawn constitutional

between workers on the shop and office floor and considerable "bad blood" which will do British industry any good.

Mr Tebbit's plans aim to limit the rights of workers to take industrial action in a wide variety of circumstances. In essence, they are a wide variety of circumstances that will be taken by employees against their own employer over strictly defined terms and conditions of employment.

But restrictive though the proposals are, their effect is to "take" the unions out of action. It would be held responsible for the acts of any of its officials; not just full-time officials but all shop stewards and branch officers. Some large unions could therefore incur liability for the actions of any one of thousands of people.

Not is it good enough to say that unions must control all their officials. Unions are democratic bodies which are — and which employers tell us they expect to be — responsive to the wishes of their members. They are not corporate institutions with long hierarchical controls. While unions will always do their best to ensure that agreements are observed, and do so successfully every day in British industry, they are not, and cannot be, industry's policemen. The Government cannot force them to take on that role.

The author is general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades and chairman of the TUC employment and organization committee.

## Gallipoli: is the film fair to the British?

The Australian-made film Gallipoli, which opened in London a week ago to general critical approval, is creating controversy among historians. The Times asked Martin Gilbert, Winston Churchill's biographer, to assess its historical accuracy.

On the end of September 1915, senior members of the British Government received a copy of an extraordinary letter. Its writer was Keith Murdoch, an Australian journalist who had just reached London from the Peninsula.

Murdoch had spent seven days on the Gallipoli peninsula, a month after the August battles in which 23,000 soldiers, many of them Australians and New Zealanders of the Anzac Corps, had been killed in two short offensives. In his letter, Murdoch placed the blame for these deaths on "gross selfishness and complacency on the part of the Staff" — most of whom were British.

Now, 66 years later, the campaign — co-produced by Murdoch's son, Rupert, after an Australian team had approached him with the idea.

Gallipoli focuses on one sector of the battle, the attack by Australian forces on the Nek on August 7, in which 650 of the 7,250 who went over the top were killed within a few minutes — most within a few seconds — leaving their trenches.

It does not show the more successful New Zealand attack on the nearby Rhododendron Spur or the further battles in which several thousand British soldiers died.

The film revolves around the personal story of two young men, members of the Australian Light Horse — their friendship in Australia,



The 1st Australian Brigade charge the Turkish line at Gallipoli, a sector of a battle depicted in 1915 as a "great Australian feat". An artist's impression from The Illustrated London News.

Cairo and then Gallipoli itself. The events leading up to the campaign and the accusations of the Murdoch letter of 1915 are slipped in only through casual remarks. But, however casual, the burden of the older Murdoch's charges is a heavy one, that while Australians were being massacred at the Nek in a futile assault on the Turkish trenches above Anzac Cove, further north at Suvla Bay, the British, for whom this alleged diversion had been laid on, had called a halt to their much less opposed landing and, instead of following up their initial "seemed apathetic", and that "the apathy of the senior officers had spread to the men".

In fact the Australian attack on the Nek was not intended as a diversion for the British to the north but

was part of the Anzac commander's own plan to help the advance of the New Zealanders on the same front. There is considerable truth, however, in the film's charge of lethargy at Suvla Bay — as there was in Keith Murdoch's charges, subsequently borne out by evidence presented to the Dardanelles Commission of Inquiry. When Winston Churchill's younger brother Jack landed at Suvla Bay two days after the initial battle, he reported home that the commander of the 11th Division during the landing was "seemed apathetic", and that "the apathy of the senior officers had spread to the men".

The Commander-in-Chief himself, Sir Ian Hamilton, had been equally shocked by

the lethargy of his divisional commanders. So also had an emissary from London, Colonel Hankey (then Secretary to the War Office), who had heard of the lethargy of the commanders, and he added: "I am taking steps to have these generals replaced by real fighters as quickly as possible."

Sir Ian Hamilton decided to launch the attack in the afternoon so that the infantry could advance with the sun at their backs, and with the defenders blinded by its glare. But soon after midday the sun disappeared behind a bank of cloud, while the Turkish positions were hidden by the haze. The preliminary artillery bombardment failed to touch the Turkish positions.

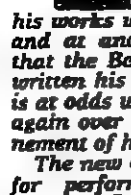
Hardly had the attack begun than most battalions lost their officers, and many their guides. The result was confusion. Of the 14,300 men who took part in the fighting around the first low hill more than 5,000 had been killed or wounded by nightfall.

By August 28 the troops at Anzac and Suvla, Australians, British and others, had exhausted their energy. No further attack was possible. The Turks remained in control of the high ground, and despite their own severe losses, maintained their dominance over the peninsula.

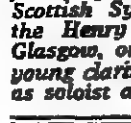
## THE TIMES DIARY



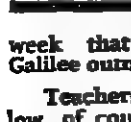
Graham Whettam, the British composer, has over the years had a somewhat turbulent relationship with the BBC. He once accused Auntie of banning a substantial number of his works without giving a reason and at another time complained that the Beeb had alleged he had written his own fan mail. Now he is at odds with the corporation get again over the mysterious postponement of his Clarinet Concerto. The new concerto was scheduled for performance by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at the Henry Wood Concert Hall, Glasgow, on January 8, with the young clarinetist Geraldine Allen as soloist and Sir Charles Groves conducting. However, Whettam has just received a letter from the BBC stating that the work has been postponed. He says no satisfactory explanation was given and that "there is something distinctly odd about it."



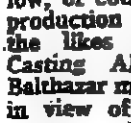
It could have been an administrative blunder but Whettam's fear is that it may be connected with the fact that he recently took part, critically, in the debate in The Listener on the administration of the Frome. Yesterday a BBC spokesman in Glasgow told me that though there was "a very good reason" for postponing the performance, he was not prepared to disclose it. Paul Hamburger, a chief music critic for BBC Radio, simply hung up.



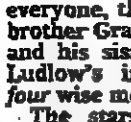
week that the shepherds in Galilee outnumbered the sheep. Teachers like Miss Ludlow, of course, have all sorts of production problems unknown to the likes of Sir Peter Hall. Casting Alistair from 4b as Balzhazar made sense to everyone in view of his lovely voice — everyone, that is, except younger brother Graham, who hit the roof and his sister. But I liked Miss Ludlow's imaginative way out: four wise men.



The stars looked magical in their black leotards and disco glitter but they trooped on stage a triangle short and I feel it was a shade unheavenly to have a pushing and pulling march of



near-cosmic proportions behind the manger. It only meant they were late twinking. Joseph, said to say, lost his way rather a lot amid the script — and several ribs I should imagine, since whenever he was late coming in on cue, also frequent, he was enthusiastically shoved from behind by the angels and the front half of the donkey.



The ethnic balance of the story was somewhat disturbed, in that only wise men came over as in any way Jewish — and from Brooklyn at that. This was probably due to a mistake, however, since the effect stemmed from the only line they had to speak. Balzhazar had to



give an instruction to one of his less-wise men after they had dropped their gold frankincense and (two loads of) myrrh on baby Jesus's head. I have a suspicion he left out the word "ready" when he belloyed the command: "Make with the camels, Melchior."

### Le cuisine anglais

English cuisine gets an accolade in Paris this week from those high priests of French gastronomy, Henri Gault and Christian Millou, famous for their restaurant guide. Yes, they say, in an article in a Parisian weekly, English cuisine really exists.

Besides the well-known and

"admirable" Scotch beef and Yorkshire pudding and the "rich" Dover sole, "which has no equivalent in France", they have also been "enchanted" recently to discover cock-a-leekie soup, Lancaster hotpot (sic), beef braised in Guinness and even tripe and onions. The restaurant place for these delicacies is none other than the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane.

### Royal mail

I await with interest the Post Office decision which could mean that mail posted at Windsor Castle will bear the less regal postmark of nearby Slough from next spring. A mechanized letter office which is to open in Slough will mean that 55 per cent of mail now bearing the Windsor postmark will disappear — much to the chagrin of the town's inhabitants.

### Battle stations

Mr Ken Livingstone, the beleaguered head of the GLC, needs all the help he can get this morning, after his defeat at the hands of those five Lords of Appeal yesterday, and I am happy to chip in my bit. He forecasts the closure of 20 tube stations as a result of the decision to he may feel like making use of the following crucial intelligence: Temple is the local station for Lord Diplock, Wimbledon for Lord Brandon, Knightsbridge for Lord Scarman, High St Kensington for Lord Wilberforce. Lord Keith lives in Piddichry, Scotland, so he makes most use of King's Cross/St Pancras.

### GG in suspense

Graham Greene is following in the footsteps of Charles Dickens by publishing his next novel in instalments. A third chunk of the book, *Monsieur Quixote*, appears today in The Tablet, which has carried earlier instalments in its last two Christmas issues. Greene is a trustee of the Roman Catholic periodical, whose editor, Tom Burns, tells me that his seasonal contributions have done much for its circulation.

Greene has just delivered the completed manuscript of the novel to his publishers at The Bodley Head, but I fear he is too late to catch his preferred publication date in May, so fans will have to wait until September to find out what happens to the *Monsieur*, a rebellious priest in modern Spain.

Research for the book has been helped by Father Leopoldo Duran, a Spanish priest, who has accompanied the author for the last few summers on motor tours around the country. Exactly which of them plays Quixote is a matter for Sancho Panza is not yet certain.

The travels have not been exactly fruitless for the priest, who happens to be a lecturer in English literature at Madrid University and, unsurprisingly, an acknowledged expert on GG. Confronted with Greene's latest instalment in The Tablet, Duran gives an insider's analysis of the author and his recent oeuvre in The Clergy Review. Wisely, he does not stray away Quixote's ending.

Peter Watson





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## LONDON TRANSPORT AND THE LAW

We now have the last word on the law, and it says that the Greater London Council did not have the power to order a reduction of 25 per cent in the fares charged by London Transport and throw the whole cost on the ratepayers. Local authorities, even the largest of them, are the creation of statute. They may do only what they have express authority to do. The Transport (London) Act 1969 does not authorize the GLC to do what it did. Nor did the voters' endorsement of Labour's GLC manifesto supersede in any way the constraints imposed by the law.

The Act does authorize the GLC to pay the London Transport Executive grants or subsidies out of its precepted rate income. But so far as these take the form of an operational subsidy they are permissible only for meeting an "unavoidable" deficit after the LTE has done its duty of ensuring, as far as practicable, that its operating costs are covered by fares and other internal revenues. Neither the council nor the executive has authority to go for a deficit as an objective of policy.

The London Act (and it must now be supposed the Act under which provincial transport authorities operate) is thus found to preclude positive subsidies for the deliberate manipulation of fare levels or (presumably) for other operational purposes. Yet such subsidies are by now a common instrument of public transport policy more so abroad than in

Britain, but part of orthodoxy here none the less. If the law does not accommodate them, the law must be changed.

A change of law will require more than a simple redrafting of the relevant sections of the Acts. The idea of regional subsidies for urban transport has been temporarily discredited by the GLC's foray. As things now are councils cannot safely be given an unrestricted right to put their hands in ratepayers' pockets for the benefit of public transport users, even though the two classes overlap especially as Lord Scarman observed in his judgment, since those who produce the greater part of the rates have no vote in local government elections. The fiduciary duty a council owes its ratepayers, which the courts have frequently insisted upon and which formed an important element in the arguments of the five Law Lords in this case, cannot safely be set aside by statute unless there is reason to be confident that the new discretion will be prudently exercised.

To be confident of that one would need to be satisfied that the administrative structures were well adapted to the exercise of the discretion in respect of the area covered, the transport services included and the population to be taxed; that the authorities given the discretion could be relied on to be guided by considerations of transport policy and the costs and benefits for the people of the area as a whole, and to keep their political impulses under

control; and that the source of revenue on which they would be entitled to precept was from the point of view of accountability in a sound relationship to the electorate from which they derive their authority — which will not be the case until local public financing is thoroughly reformed. All of that raises considerable doubt as to whether the present lines of responsibility for public transport in the London area are the right ones.

But given the right structures, accountability and tax arrangements, a power of positive subsidy is certainly a power that a modern urban transport authority ought to have. It is no panacea, and it will do no good unless it is carefully related to other policy instruments. One of the GLC's mistakes was to throw the whole of its huge new subsidy at fares, without relating it to improvements in productivity or in the frequency and reliability of service. The latter are of even more importance than fare levels when it comes to winning custom. An operating subsidy is a necessary instrument of policy if judiciously used in conjunction with capital improvements, flexible fare schedules, simplified patterns and collection of fares, regularity of service, administrative and price discipline to private cars in inner city areas, and a coordinated road works programme. That at any rate is suggested by the Continental experience, which our Transport Correspondent looks at on another page.

## TEN CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

There has been disappointingly little to show for the six months of Britain's presidency of the European Community. On Wednesday Mrs Thatcher was in Strasbourg to give a report on the failure of last month's summit. She was followed yesterday by Lord Carrington, who outlined a number of decisions which had been taken in the last few months, but had to admit that the major objectives had not been achieved. There is still no agreement on the related issues of reform of the common agricultural policy and contributions to the Community budget, both of which were supposed to have been settled by the end of this year. Nor has it been possible to resolve the differences over fisheries policy, which have been causing difficulties for so long, or to make the progress that had been hoped on bringing down European air fares or allowing insurance companies to operate across national borders.

It would be wrong, however, to put all the blame for this failure on this country. In the first place, there are limits to the possibilities which are opened up by being in the chair. The country holding the presidency can do much to fix the agenda of meetings. It can even force everyone else to work away at looking for solutions, as Mrs

Thatcher did at the summit. But ultimately it is only one among ten, and it takes ten, all with their own national interests, to reach a Community agreement. What Britain was able to do was to impart a sense of urgency and — unusually — to ensure that meetings started on time. It was able to show that it took the European Parliament seriously. Mrs Thatcher was the first head of government to report to the Parliament on a summit. But it was not able to get agreements on the issues which were of the greatest importance to itself.

There were some achievements. There was the agreement in October on procedures for improving cooperation on foreign policy issues, and on including security at least in its political aspects, in consultations among the Ten. Foreign policy coordination is an area in which the Community has made slow but steady progress. Some progress was made towards a solution of the complex of issues related to agricultural reform and budget contributions. A settlement should be possible in the next few months. It is also important that the Community has, so far at least, been able to weather this latest crisis without the recriminations and bitterness which have marked earlier ones.

But the fact remains, as Lord Carrington pointed out yesterday, that it has become increasingly difficult to get decisions in the Community. The failure at the summit means that more time and effort will have to be devoted to the issues discussed there, rather than taking up new ones. It could delay even further the entry of Spain and Portugal, which are being made to wait until the Community has sorted out its own difficulties, and are both understandably impatient. It will do nothing to reduce public disillusionment with the workings of the Community, which has long been serious in this country and is increasingly so in West Germany.

There are no easy solutions to the problem of getting decisions. One long-standing idea, recently revived by the Germans and the Italians, is to make more use of majority voting. But that could only improve the situation if it meant that one or more countries were overruled on issues that were of importance to them; and that could be a recipe for more disenchantment. The only way forward is by constructing packages in which countries give up something in one area for gains in another — and by a greater awareness all round of a shared European interest.

## FISH AND FOWL IN FLEET STREET

Journalists, like most members of the community, hold political opinions. They vote in local and parliamentary elections. They may be members of a political party. Some of them become politically active, presenting themselves as candidates for their local council, or for Westminster. Others demonstrate their commitment through their membership of various committees, or by individual effort behind the scenes.

The question whether strong political allegiance and unbiased journalistic performance are compatible is by no means new, but the advent of the Social Democratic Party has given it a new turn. It appears, though it is difficult to quantify, that the party has attracted a significant complement of journalists. It is clear that some of them — drawn from a very wide range of newspapers — are taking an active part, through committees (like that on communication, on which *The Times* reported yesterday) or by offering themselves as candidates in elections, or as advisers.

Does it matter? Does the fact that a journalist is, in his private life, a firm supporter of the SDP and works for the party, affect his credibility as a journalist? There is no easy answer. Obviously, much depends on the field he covers. It may not matter at all if he is the sports editor of a newspaper or an active party worker. In the political field, however, there may be justification for some disquiet. A journalist actively engaged in politics is perhaps not the most objective purveyor of news about politics. A Member of Parliament who has a financial interest in a subject which he raises in the House has to declare his interest. Should the journalist with a strong political commitment be under a similar obligation to tell his public of his involvement in the very subject on which he reports.

It is extraordinarily difficult to draw the line in practice. Political commitment does not necessarily manifest itself in membership of committees, or in attempts to find a seat. Parties differ in

the way they operate. A journalist who works behind the scenes for one party may be just as effective — and potentially suspect in his political writings — as one who pursues his aims more openly on behalf of another party. Mrs Shirley Williams has admitted that, apart from the journalists who are public relations, he is known to be active helpers of the SDP, there are others whose identities have not been revealed. They should be.

What is important is that the editors of newspapers should know when their journalists have reached a stage of political commitment that might be considered (whether rightly or wrongly) to affect their judgement when writing about political matters. It should then be up to the editor to decide whether or not to curtail his writing on those subjects and divert him elsewhere. In general, an editor (who should not himself be politically active) should exercise that editorial discretion to remove the possibility of perceived bias.

This democratic duty above all other considerations such as shortage of secretarial staff, shortage of assistant commissioners and the rest.

In the one experience I have had of the commission at work I was appalled at the autocratic nature of the assistant commissioner who conducted the enquiry. It was a thoroughly legal matter to him, it appeared, and if ordinary people could not handle it in this way, then had luck! The result was that the lawyers were upheld and, having been given no idea of when they

might be called to give their evidence, (questions were not allowed) they left for work or the care of their homes and families and a whole side of the case was thus unsupported by witnesses.

The Boundary Commission cannot possibly be excused for allowing this sort of thing to happen and, as a body answerable to Parliament should take immediate steps to put itself above reproaches of this kind.

Yours etc,  
HARRY GREENWAY,  
House of Commons,  
December 14.

## Boundary Commission

From Mr Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North

Sir, I have read the letter from the secretary to the Boundary Commission in today's *Times* (December 14) with much interest. I find it unacceptable.

The prime duty of the Boundary Commission is to produce constituency boundaries which are even in terms of number of electors and homogeneous in character. There can be no possible excuse for not putting

## An urgent case for reflation

From Professor Wynne Godley

The present Government's economic policy has always been based on the view that unemployment cannot be reduced (other than temporarily) by fiscal and monetary policy and that the attempt to use policy in this way only leads to more inflation and ultimately to even more unemployment than otherwise would have occurred.

This view is one which does not suit our "flexibility" whatever. Most particularly it implies that if there are any cuts at all in taxation in the next Budget this will make both unemployment and inflation worse, not better.

When on such a view people go to wake up and see these ideas to be wrong from beginning to end and that policies based on them have had wholly perverse effects; they have generated (as I forecasted) an unprecedented slump without the prospect of sustained recovery at any stage, with unemployment rising indefinitely and, very likely, without much reduction in the inflation rate.

As the money supply is way above its target rate of growth, inflation still in double figures and the public sector borrowing requirement no longer than the MTFSS (medium term financial strategy), the only possible justification for any reduction in tax rates in the Budget, on which many people now seem to be counting, is that it will increase output and employment. But this would be to admit that the Government's policies so far have indeed been based on entirely false premises.

And as soon as people see this they should recognize also the desperately urgent need for really substantial reflationary measures before any more destruction occurs.

Such measures should be devised so as to reduce industrial costs and thereby stimulate domestic output and employment while actually reducing inflation. A £10,000 package consisting of the abolition of the National Insurance surcharge and a reduction of 10 per cent in employers' contributions in manufacturing industry would make a good start.

Yours faithfully,  
WYNNE GODLEY,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Applied Economics,  
Slagfield Avenue,  
Cambridge.

## Art buyers' premium

From Mr David Mason

Sir, The humiliation of the two art trade organizations is a complete. Sotheby's high-handed and combative statement this week (report, December 16) confirms that they will not abolish the premium or even reduce it but in fact they will increase vendor charges regarding three-quarters of the items that they sell by 50 per cent.

Mrs. Geraldine Norman's penetrating article (December 17) on the bitter dispute between Sotheby's and Christie's on the one hand, and the British Antique Dealers Association and the Society of London Art Dealers on the other, over the controversial 10 per cent auctioneers' buyers' premium gives cause for the greatest concern.

Several weeks ago Mr. Gordon Burnie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, who had already attempted to investigate the alleged collusion by the auctioneers over the introduction of the premium twice before, again took up the cudgels on behalf of the public who sadly have so far been totally ignored by both dealers and auctioneers alike. However, he has been hampered in his inquiries by the extraordinary and obstinate refusal by the dealers' organizations to assist him.

As a picture dealer who has been highly critical of the art trade's supine attitude to the financial strength and establishment of the auctioneers, I deplore this latest stage neither trade organization has been willing to furnish the Office of Fair Trading with the evidence they hold of this alleged collusion.

Consequently, we now have an unequivocal declaration by the British Antique Dealers' Association and Society of London Art Dealers that they will forthwith co-operate to the full with the Director General of the Office of Fair Trading? And if not, why not?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MASON, Chairman,  
MacConnell-Mason,  
14 Duke Street,  
St James's, SW1.

## CBI rates plea

From Mr F. L. Othick

Your report (Business News, December 9) refers to Sir Terence Beckwith's claim, on behalf of the CBI, that industry is contributing £5,000m in rates this year.

The total rate income is, I understand, £14,000m. As industry accounts for only 23 per cent of the total rateable value its contribution would seem to be less than half the figure Sir Terence claims.

It is to be hoped that Mr Michael Heseltine will be cautious about inflicting more burdens on domestic ratepayers to help industrialists unless and until their true need is properly authenticated. In any case, help should be reserved for those proved to be badly hit, not every industrial concern irrespective of its fortunes.

Yours etc,  
FRANK OTHICK,  
109 Hookfield,  
Epsom,  
Surrey.

## Dilemma of the Polish people

From Mr John Lyons

Sir, You say in your leader on Poland today (December 16) that "the radicals in Solidarity owe their hand to the Government, in which this is obviously true but before it becomes the conventional wisdom I would like to put a different view."

It happens that I was in Poland five weeks ago. Among those I met was Mr Janusz Onyszkiewicz, a leading representative of Solidarity, who is now reported to be among those who have been arrested.

My clear impression from my visit was of almost universal agreement among Poles that the Government and the Polish Communist Party, of which the Government was an extension, had lost all credibility with the Polish people. Nothing they did or said commanded the slightest respect among the people at large. On the other hand, Solidarity, with a membership of ten million (plus two million in Rural Solidarity), did command that respect.

As I understood it, the central political requirement in Poland was for a negotiated settlement between the Government and Solidarity which would leave the leading role of the Communist Party intact but which nevertheless would make sufficient political concessions to Solidarity to enable it to call on its supporters to turn to the task of rescuing the Polish economy and, therefore, the Polish nation from the abyss everyone saw before them.

The position of Solidarity's leadership was emphatically that they did not want political power, never did they wish to form a political party. The Solidarity leadership saw their function essentially as a trades union which happened for the moment to be acceptable for the Polish people's political desire for honest and decent Government. They wished to secure the essential political changes their supporters wanted and then, to revert to their trade union role.

Solidarity's political demands, as the Government seemed to be, were the right of access to television (specifically to have half an hour to themselves a week); the introduction of an independent judiciary; free local elections; and the creation of a joint Council of Government, Church and Solidarity to have an input into the legislative process, principally in a vetting capacity.

I was struck by the modesty of these demands. What I could not understand was how it could be so much an insuperable difficulty for agreement to be reached between Solidarity and the Government somewhat along these lines, particularly as I formed the opinion that the Solidarity leadership strongly wished to reach agreement with the Government.

What I could not understand then I believe I can understand now. If the Polish Government and Communist Party had already taken the view that they wished to renege on their authority on the Polish people then, of course, the refusal to negotiate realistically the demands of moderate Solidarity leadership was exactly the right course to take.

It led to where we are now at the radicals in Solidarity gaining ascendancy and putting forward demands which eventually gave the Government the excuse it wanted to introduce martial law. (It is absolutely apparent, incidentally, that the whole operation has been very well planned, a process which must have taken weeks if not months.)

It is for these reasons I do not think it is good enough to regard the imposition of martial law in Poland as being the fault of the radicals who went too far. With hindsight I would say that the Polish Communist Party has never had any intention of conceding a genuine vision of democracy in any wider sense; it has played a waiting game, indirectly encouraging the emergence of relatively extreme elements for its own purposes.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
ANTONI POSPIESZALSKI,  
115 Redston Road, N8,  
December 16.

From Mr Nigel Linacre

Sir, Does the British Communist Party's support (December 17) for "the restoration of all democratic rights" in Poland include legalising all other political parties and regular national elections to choose between those parties? Or does this fall outside the bounds of socialist realism?

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL LINACRE,  
15 Hindman's Road, SE22,  
December 17.

Director makes his decision on the basis of the police report on the investigation, without personally interviewing either the complainant or the police officer.

At what other cases does the Director intervene? I suspect a complaint before a deciding whether to prosecute? He can, and often does, order that further inquiries be made into a police complaint before he takes a decision on his public duty.

Apparently, Mr Meacher believes that a wholly independent system of investigation into all complaints, criminal and non-criminal, would increase the proportion of convictions against the police for alleged assaults. To believe this, it is necessary to accept his premise that police investigators do not do the job thoroughly at the present time, or that the Director is failing in his public duty.

I find it revealing that Mr Meacher objects to our proposals for strengthening the civil rights of police officers who find themselves subjected to a complaint. He has never portrayed any sympathy or understanding for the situation of such an officer. Fair-minded people, on the other hand, might wonder why he supports all moves aimed at strengthening the protection of the citizen who is suspected of crime, except where that citizen happens to be a policeman.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES JARDINE, Chairman,  
Police Federation of England and Wales,  
15-17 Langley Road,  
Surrey,  
December 14.

Mr Meacher complains that the

## Steps towards racial equality

From Sir Geoffrey Wilson

Sir, I hold no particular brief for the Commission for Racial Equality, for when I was Chairman of the old Race Relations Board we warned a totally deaf Mr Alex Lyon of what the consequences were likely to be if the Government, of which he was then a member, went ahead with its plan to merge the board and the Race Relations Commission.

But whatever the detailed shortcomings of the commission, Mr Lyon and his parliamentary colleagues (report, December 16) are shooting at the wrong target. The major responsibility rests with this Government and the last one.

In its final report in September, 1976, the Race Relations Board set out some of the steps which it thought that the Government should take to improve race relations, and concluded: "The use by the Government of its commercial and financial powers is long overdue... While it fails to use its executive powers its commission has been negligible. Until the Government allocates the necessary resources... so that its words and policies can be put into effect, some scepticism of its determination to deal with the issues will be justified."

These words were addressed to a Labour Government and they are equally applicable to this one. Mr Whitelaw's promise that at last there will be some degree of monitoring in the Civil Service is most welcome, but there is little sign of any other positive use of its powers by the Government, and until there is it is quite unreasonable to expect that a statutory body with a very modest amount of money will be able to make a significant impact. The CRE can be a valuable support for every, and vigorous, Government action. But even the most perfect commission can be no substitute for such action.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY WILSON,  
4 Polstead Road,  
Oxford.

## Wartime Wagner

From Mr Harold Rosenthal

Sir, I am sure that my friend Bernard Levin will not object if I play Wagner's music once again, especially as on this occasion it is to correct a mistaken piece of Wagnerian folklore that seems to have grown up. It is not true to suggest as Mr Levin did in his article last Saturday (December 12) that "The 20 years of the long ban on performances of his music meant that those young people who were a few years my (Levin's) senior had grown up, musically, without him."

There was no kind of ban of any kind on Wagner between 1939 and 1945; I attended many concerts in which Wagner's music was played during those years, and especially remember the "bleeding chunks" from Wagner operas during the war. The CRE can be a valuable support for every, and vigorous, Government action. But even the most perfect commission can be no substitute for such action.

Yours faithfully,  
HAROLD ROSENTHAL,  
Editor, Opera,  
6 Woodland Rise, N10.

## Cold feet?

From Mrs R. S. King-Farrow

Sir, For those who wish to stretch their feet to comfort, Sir, but dislike the idea of putting their foot in the freezer, as suggested by your correspondent of December 10, may I pass on a tip given to us by our cleaning lady's husband (a retired industrial worker). He recommended quickly roasting a few pages of newspaper in water, squeezing them into a ball, and stuffing it as tightly as possible into the offending shoe, which stretches to a comfortable width.

I may add that of course I always use *The Times* for this purpose, though I am quite ignorant of the scientific explanation of the phenomenon.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN KING-FARROW,  
21 Harley Place,  
Vicarage Road,  
Edgbaston,  
Birmingham.

## Where is fancy bred?

From Mrs Joanne Bower

Sir, How very strange that, while China is trying desperately to control its population explosion, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, should bestow the industry's top marketing award on Mr Joe Buckner, of Cherry Valley, Ducks, who is exporting ducks' feet to China as aphrodisiacs. (Business News, December 9).

Is this perhaps on a par with our former peddling of opium in order to undermine China's construction? Yours faithfully,  
JOANNE BOWER,  
Honorary Secretary,  
The Farm and Food Society,  
4 Willfield Way, NW11.











## Industry chiefs seek priority for UK suppliers

By Our Industrial Editor

Renewed efforts are being made by leading industrialists to direct to United Kingdom suppliers more of the estimated £50,000m of purchases made annually by central and local government, state industries and large companies.

Although industrialists insist that the campaign is not a naked "Buy British" policy, they believe that more positive purchasing policies could provide a significant boost to the economy.

Sir Raymond Pennock, president of the Confederation of British Industry, has appealed to trade associations to urge their members to give priority to domestic suppliers.

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, is among state industry chairmen urging greater awareness of the issue. The coal board spends about £1,000m a year on equipment and services with more than 97 per cent going to British companies.

The CBI believes that if other substantial public sector purchasers aimed at a similar level of domestic purchases it would have a significant impact on economic activity.

The Government last year introduced new guidelines for public purchasing aimed at encouraging government departments and local authorities to enhance the international competitiveness of British suppliers. The policy is coordinated by the Treasury and the Department of Industry.

In a report published yesterday, the powerful Commons Committee of Public Accounts said that the application of the policy, including the use of strengthened procurement procedures, would require the exercise of considerable skill and judgment by purchasing officers.

Third report from the Committee of Public Accounts, House of Commons Paper 29, HMSO £2.45.

## £300m to revive West of Scotland

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

The improvement of living conditions ever undertaken by a local authority in Britain.

The plan covers 12 areas which are considered to be in urgent need of renewal. These are Alexandria, Renfrew, Blantyre/Hamilton, Wishaw/Bellshill, Coatbridge, Kilmarnock, Greenock/Fort Glasgow, Saltcoats, Govan, Ibrox, Part Dundas, Finnieston, and Glasgow city centre. These areas will also be given priority in Strathclyde's £1,300m annual budget for education, training, transport and infrastructure facilities.

Councillor Charles Gray, deputy leader of the council, said that these areas were chosen partly for the number of small companies located in them which could be helped to grow.

He estimated that the economic recovery programme would take from three to five years.

## 30 training centres to be named

By Bill Johnston

The locations of 30 Information Technology Centres to be set up for the training of the young unemployed are to be announced by the Government on Monday.

Also to be announced are the names of several hundred British companies which will be involved in either providing finance or technical support for the centres, where trainees will learn electronics, computer programming and related skills. Among them will be IBM, ICL, Ferranti, Marconi, Northern Engineering Industries, Cable & Wireless, and GEC.

Most of the centres are expected to be completed and fully operational by the end of next year, which has already been designated Information Technology Year.

The centres will be in Strathclyde and Dundee, Flint, Portsmouth, London (Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Brixton, Southwark), Bristol (two locations), Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Walsall, Telford, Liverpool (five locations), Manchester (Moss Side plus one other), Salford, Warrington, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, Sunderland, and Gateshead.

## Peter Hill explores the controversial Lawson Bill

# North Sea Sale of the Century



Engineer at work aboard a North Sea gas production platform

Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, and his officials, cannot be accused of moving at a snail's pace. It is two months, almost to the day, since his initial announcement that the Government was to take powers to sell off the oil production interests of the British National Oil Corporation, the offshore oil activities of the British Gas Corporation and to break the corporation's gas purchasing monopoly. Yesterday brought the detailed and lengthy Bill which has already attracted a storm of protest from the TUC and the Opposition and which is promised an equally stormy passage through Parliament.

Apart from fundamentally altering the ownership of a not insignificant part of the nation's offshore oil assets, the Energy Secretary is seeking greater powers of direction over British Gas.

The Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, which the Government hopes will complete its parliamentary passage by next autumn was described by Mr Lawson yesterday as "the biggest privatisation exercise ever introduced by any British Government". And he claimed it would also give a big boost to the development of Britain's natural gas resources. "It represents a major commitment to reducing the role of the State and replacing monopoly by competition in the interests of enterprise, efficiency and initiative."

Its provisions fall into four main sections embracing the disposal of BNOC's offshore production interests — although the Government will retain a 49 per cent stake — while leaving the corporation's oil trading activities unchanged. This is to safeguard the national interests, since BNOC will continue to handle 51 per cent of all oil production from the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea through participation agreements with other oil companies.

BNOC will form a Scottish-registered company Britoil, a name given four years ago to a BNOC-established, American-registered company as part of a deal to finance development of its North Sea interests.

Market conditions permitting, the majority of shares in Britoil will be offered by the end of next year. The Bill requires BNOC to make arrangements for employee share schemes in the new company.

Articles of association for the new

special purchasing rights, the Bill will repeal section 8 of the 1976 Energy Act and two new sections will be introduced to the 1972 Gas Act whose broad effect will be to create three categories of gas consumer. These are:

Industrial customers consuming more than 1 million therms annually, estimated to account for between one third and a half of all commercial customers, who will be free to buy from the supplier of their choice.

The bulk of domestic consumers taking less than 25,000 therms where British Gas will continue as sole supplier.

Private companies falling between the two other groups of users who will be free to choose their supplier but only with the consent of the Energy Secretary.

That approval will be conditional on safety arrangements being satisfactory and those measures fulfilling the Government's pledge to remove the gas corporation's statutory obligation to supply gas on request. The Bill also provides for appropriate changes in safety legislation and measures to ensure gas quality.

Under the Bill's other provisions private suppliers of gas will be given access to the Corporation's pipelines and Mr Lawson is seeking powers which will enable him to direct British Gas to increase capacity of pipelines to accommodate the private sector.

In cases where companies are unable to agree terms on the conveyance of their supplies by the corporation, they can appeal to the Energy Secretary to arbitrate.

British Gas will also be required to give advance warning to the Secretary of State when it intends to build new high pressure pipelines.

The Government is still trading water over its plans to sell off the gas corporation's showrooms, although the Bill contains the necessary powers.

That move, however remains suspended since the Government's wishes — hotly contested by British Gas — cannot be accomplished until essential legislation governing safety standards is introduced. This is not expected until 1982-83.

Other provisions of the Bill will modify existing petroleum legislation, covering safety zones around offshore installations, and on safety regulations relating to offshore accommodation platforms.

## IN BRIEF

### Warrant issued for tycoon

A French judge has issued an international arrest warrant for M Pierre Latecoere, an industrialist who is accused of illegally transferring FF23m (£2m) worth of gold to a bank in Toronto and opening secret Swiss bank accounts in violation of currency regulations.

M Latecoere allegedly transferred the assets through Paribas, the French financial firm, after the Socialist election victory this spring.

Paribas executives also have been charged in connection with a number of allegedly illegal transfers following the socialist victory.

### New research group

United States semiconductor makers are banding together to conduct joint research in advanced semiconductor technology. The move is seen as an attempt to blunt Japan's competitive edge in some areas of research.

### US trade surplus up

The United States registered a seasonally adjusted trade surplus of \$2,100m (£1,111m) in its balance of payments on the current account in the third quarter of 1981, up from a revised surplus of \$1,140m in the second quarter.

### MFA working text

A working text of a protocol to make the 52-nation Multi-Fibre Arrangement more restrictive has been agreed. The text is under discussion in Geneva.

### Suzuki waiting

Suzuki, the Japanese motor company, is still awaiting Pakistan Government approval of a plan to increase vehicle production in Pakistan in cooperation with the state-run automobile corporation.

### Ports threat

Australian ports face a national shutdown from next week because of an industrial dispute.

# The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited

THE profit for the year to 30th September 1981 has been achieved against a background of lower average interest rates and a higher volume of advances. The results reflect a much better second half performance than anticipated earlier in the year, due to a number of factors including higher net interest earnings and commission and fee income, and a reduction in the charge for bad and doubtful debts.

The range of customer services has been developed further during the year by both member banks. Growth in the domestic business of The Royal Bank of Scotland has been satisfactory, but the combination of depressed economic conditions and the continuing intensity of banking competition in Scotland has made it all the more difficult to obtain profitable new business. The enlargement of the branch network of Williams & Glyn's Bank has proceeded on schedule and the free banking arrangements introduced during the year for personal customers who remain in credit have been widely welcomed.

Against a background of general economic gloom it is hardly surprising that large numbers of basically sound businesses have had to struggle hard merely to keep going. In common with the other major banks in the United Kingdom, we in the Group are endeavouring to the best of our ability to assist in supporting those of our customers who are in temporary difficulties until not only their survival but a secure future is ensured. Evidence is now starting to accumulate that the decline has at least levelled off, with industrial output showing some signs of revival. But if we are to achieve any lasting benefit from this painful recession, we must realise the potential productivity gains which have been won at the cost of a high level of unemployment.

In Scotland what information is available suggests that the recession has been weathered with slightly less difficulty than the rest of the UK and there have been some areas of genuine improvement, particularly from the electronics industry. Oil and gas production from the North Sea is substantially above the levels of a year ago.

Among banking developments in the year the retrospective levy on banks' non-interest earning balances will cost the Group some £16 million. This tax establishes a dangerous precedent and reduces the amount of reserves we have available to support our customers in these difficult times.

Salient Figures	1981	1980
Profit before taxation	£107.9m	£102.5m
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	£78.3m	£73.5m
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	28.7p	30.7p
Earnings per 25p ordinary share after exceptional item*	41.9p	30.7p
Dividends per 25p ordinary share	5.4p	4.9p
Total assets	£7,763m	£6,147m

\*Exceptional item: £27.5m of the provision made in previous years for deferred taxation in respect of leased assets is not required and has been credited in the profit and loss account.

Copies of the 1981 Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited, 38 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2TB.

# The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LIMITED

## The Future of the Group

The future of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group remains uncertain. The three month extension granted to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to complete their investigation into our proposed merger with Standard Chartered Bank Limited and the proposed takeover by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has merely prolonged the uncertainty. Nevertheless, we welcome the obvious care which the Commission is showing in examining all the factors involved.

We have submitted to the Commission a detailed case explaining why we feel that a merger with Standard Chartered would be in the UK public interest. Indeed, we consider that the benefits resulting from the creation of a major UK sterling-based banking group — a new fifth force — operating under and supervised by our own monetary authorities would be a positive advantage to this country and to British banking.

As a result of the merger, the Royal Bank Group would be a true partner in a worldwide banking operation, enabling its Scottish banking subsidiary, The Royal Bank of Scotland, to compete on an equal footing with those non-Scottish banks which have appeared in Scotland over recent years. The merger would not detract from the importance of Edinburgh as a financial centre, since control over all banking decisions affecting Scotland would remain with the Royal Bank at its Edinburgh headquarters. At the same time Williams & Glyn's Bank would be enabled to continue its exciting branch development programme south of the border. Customers of the Royal Bank Group would benefit from the increased range of services which the new group could offer and opportunities for staff would also be enhanced.

On the other hand, the board of the Royal Bank Group do not consider that such benefits would accrue if we were to be taken over by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank which is based and controlled in a different environment on the other side of the world. If that should happen, it remains our belief that the most important strategic decisions affecting our Group would have to be taken in Hong Kong and not in the UK.

Throughout this long drawn out investigation, we have directed our efforts towards securing a result which will be to the ultimate benefit of all our shareholders, customers and staff. It is impossible to foresee the outcome of the Commission's deliberations, but we await the announcement of the Government's conclusions so that the present uncertainties cease to affect the development of the business and activities of the two member banks of the Group. I am sure, too, that all our staff will welcome an end to the uncertainty, which even though it inevitably must have had a disruptive effect has not interfered with our satisfactory progress over the past year.

Whatever the outcome, we in the Royal Bank of Scotland Group look forward to the day when we can once again, without distraction, direct all our endeavours to serving the best interests of our shareholders, customers and staff.

Michael Herries, Chairman

## Technology by Clive Cookson

### IBM breaks into viewdata market

IBM has burst spectacularly into the trade press — denied indignantly by the technology that brings computerized information — to home and business television screens by telephone.

The world's largest computer company snatched a £12m contract to equip the West German public viewdata service from the British consortium which is market-leader in Prestel.

To clear up the confusing nomenclature, videotex or videotext — with or without a T — is the name for the technology as a whole. It is called viewdata when the information is transmitted by telephone line, and teletext — always with a T — when it is broadcast over the airwaves using the "spare capacity" present in normal TV signals.

Loss of the German order was particularly galling for the British consortium, which includes British Telecom, GEC Computers and Aegion International (the software company), because its system has been on trial with the German Bundespost (Post Office) for the past two years. The American rival is a new system with no experience in public service. Nonetheless, Prestel executives are looking determinedly on the bright side: that the entry of IBM should boost the progress of videotex as a whole — private as well as public — by adding credibility to the technology. IBM has hit the market as it about to take over West Germany is the first large country to award a competitive contract for a national viewdata system. Holland, Italy, Austria and Switzerland may follow soon. Prestel is being tried in all four countries.

Prestel was the world's first public viewdata service, just as BBC with Ceefax and ITV with Oracle pioneered the technology of teletext. Unfortunately — without wishing to sound too familiar — it looks increasingly as though being first will not put Britain into a position to make a killing in the international market.

Officially, the West German order was lost simply because IBM's bid was slightly below Prestel's. But there has been speculation in the trade press — denied indignantly by the British group — that Bundespost preferred the software offered by IBM.

The joint venture, called British Videotext and Teletext (BVTT), is operating as a lobbying as well as a sales organization. Unfortunately, BVTT failed to persuade the Commission (FCC) to adopt the British standard for American teletext. But it did thwart the French who were lobbying for their rival standard. The FCC has gone for an "open market" approach with no specific standard; the marketplace will replace traditional government regulation.

This year, Logica has sold Ceefax (known as Context in the United States) to two American broadcasters. Field Electronic Publishing, is already trying to set up in Chicago, while Taft Broadcasting starts a trial with the television station it owns in Cincinnati on January 1.

This year, 26 members of the European Conference on Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT) agreed on a European viewdata standard that embraces the rival French and British systems. CEPT has now proposed to the FCC in Washington that a world videotex standard be drawn up to combine the European and American-Canadian approaches.

It would not be cheap, because of the electronic interconversion required, but if the price of microprocessors continues to plunge it should become commercially feasible.

## Business Appointments

### CHAIRMAN OF PANEL RETIRES

Lord Cross of Chelsea has retired from the chairmanship of the Appeal Committee of the Panel on Take-overs and Mergers. The Governor of the Bank of England has approved the appointment of Sir Henry Fisher, president of Wolfson College, Oxford, and formerly a judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, to take Lord Cross's place.

Mr P. N. M. Rudder has been appointed a director of The British Electric Traction Company. Mr Anthony Eastwood has been appointed group finance director of Ransome Hoffman Pollock.

Mr E. M. P. Miles is to become deputy chairman of Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company and Mr D. A. Gledhill is to become a director of the company.

## M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC8R 5EB Telephone 01-621 1212

### The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	1981/82	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross	Net	P/E	Yield
117	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CUTS	117	—	10.0	8.5	—	—
76	35	Alparung Group	86	—	4.7	7.1	10.5	14.5
52	21	Armstrong & Rhodes	43	—	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1
200	324	Bardon HSA	195	—	9.7	5.0	9.5	11.5
104	85	Deborah Services	88	—	5.5	6.3	4.4	8.3
126	85	Frank House	123	—	6.4	5.2	11.1	26.7
110	35	Frederick Parkes	65	—	1.7	2.6	28.3	—
116	46	George Blair	46	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	100	—	7.3	7.3	7.2	10.9
113	59	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
130	102	James Burroughs	114	—	8.7	7.6	8.3	10.5
334	244	Robert Jenkins	263	—	31.3	11.9	3.7	9.5
50	50	Scruttons "A"	54	—	5.3	5.8	8.3	7.7
224	167	Torday & Carlisle	167	—	10.7	6.4	5.4	9.9
23	8	Twinkl Ord	13	—	—	—	—	—
90	68	Twinkl 15% ULS	73	—	15.0	20.5	—	—
34	32	Unifac Holdings	32	—	3.0	9.4	5.7	9.7
103	77	Water Alexander	77	—	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.0
253	191	W. S. Yates	212	—	13.1	6.2	4.0	8.2



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# The monetary tightrope

The latest Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin, together with the full November money supply figures, only serve to emphasise that the authorities will be walking a monetary tightrope through the rest of the winter. The increase in bank lending to the private sector of over £2,500m in banking November may well prove exceptional. Indeed, the authorities' belief is that the recent surge in personal sector credit demand is unsustainable and that interest rates on the monetary aggregates (raising the amount of interest added to accounts) will soon be followed by some contraction in overall credit demand.

## MONETARY GROWTH

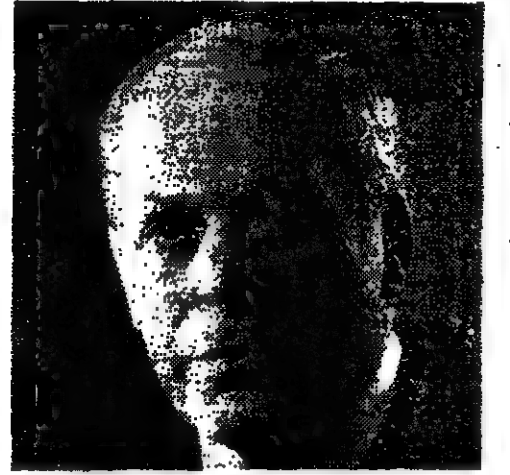
% change	M1	M2	M3	PSL2
Last month	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2
Last 12 months	10.7	14.9	21.4	12.3
Annual rate since Feb.	9.8	17.2	23.2	13.0

But so it had better be, for all the signs of a strong revival in corporate borrowing are already there — partly to finance deferred and seasonal tax payments, but also to finance the recovery in output. The authorities are currently using exhortation to encourage the banks to show some foresight and self-discipline. But what if the banks take no notice? The authorities themselves are clearly reluctant to overfund the PSBR to offset the impact of bank lending on the money supply. Presumably, they would be reluctant to use the interest rate regulator too. What does that leave other than direct credit controls or tighter liquidity requirements?

At the same time, of course, the banks might well ask whether it is entirely fair for the authorities to be on their backs in such circumstances. A good deal of the increase in credit currently being supplied to the private sector takes the form of bill finance rather than overdrafts — a trend that makes the authorities' handling of money in times of persistent shortage that much easier.

## Distillers UK sales down

Distillers' figures for the half year to September 30 are disappointing. Sales in the United Kingdom fell from £117m to £115m, while export sales rose mainly as a result of price increases. Pretax profits fell from £74.1m to £65.6m.



Mr. J. R. Cater, chairman of the Distillers Company

The company had, of course, forewarned of the problem at the time of the 1980 results: sales to distributors in the last quarter of that year had accelerated to beat Budget price rises. Unfortunately, there is still no sign of recovery in the world market, where demand for scotch whisky remains weak. Pick-up in demand had been expected as the pre-Budget stocks were run-down, but this has happened more slowly than Distillers expected. As a result, the volume targets announced a few months ago have had to be revised

downward — the second year running that this has happened. — So with its 50 per cent share of what are expected to be substantial losses in United Glass, and little prospect of disposing of any of its BP shareholding, the company says it expects its profits to fall short of last year's £172.3m. Analysts' forecast put the profit figure for this year in the range £160m-£165m, though they also expect the dividend to be held at last year's level, of 11p (gross). The half year dividend has already been maintained at 4.28p (gross). Sterling export prices are due to be adjusted early in the new year and this plus a possible increase in volume as the recession ends could help Distillers to a happier 1982.

## English China Clays Second half recovery

English China Clays has come up with pretax profits for the year to September £1.5m higher at £41.7m — a remarkable upturn from the first half when full year estimates as low as £30m were being bandied about.

Sales volume in clays for the year was in fact some 11 per cent down. But the fall in United Kingdom production, down 250,000 tons in the first half, has been held to no more than 50,000 tons in the second six months. So, helped by an 8 per cent price rise last January and increase in efficiency — the overall workforce is down 1,000 to 11,000 — pretax profits from clay come out £3m higher at £28m. Elsewhere, the construction division held up well in the face of recession, but not so the quarrying operations, where profits were cut £2.7m to £7.2m.

With another lift in the final dividend of 10.2p gross, giving a yield of 6.4 per cent on the shares, up 8p to 159p yesterday. ECC should be a considerable beneficiary of an economic upturn — but RTZ, the off-mentioned potential bidder clearly has its sights set elsewhere at the moment.

## Japanese industry Less dependent on bank finance

The role of the banks in financing Japanese industry, so much admired by critics of the British system, is itself under pressure and undergoing fundamental changes, according to an intriguing article in the Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin. The first oil shock of 1973-74 set up the stresses and strains, by interrupting temporarily and allowing more permanently Japan's astonishing postwar expansion. And the growing pressure on Japan to liberalise her financial markets, to finance both inward and outward investment, has made the traditional dependence on bank financing increasingly untenable.

The oil crisis demonstrated tellingly the dragging burden of high and inflexible interest costs on bank debt at a time of recession when profits are low. This spurred Japanese companies to try to increase their financial independence by generating more funds internally and diversifying sources of external finance.

The result: internal financing ratios have risen from between 40 to 50 per cent before 1973 to nearly 60 per cent — close to typical British levels, while equity ratios in manufacturing have jumped from 17 per cent in 1975 to 21 per cent in 1980, reversing the previous trend. Japanese companies are also seeking to raise more money abroad.

(Because of Japanese accounting procedures equity ratios may be significantly understated. The article suggests that adjustments to the official 1975 figure for all industries of 14 per cent could bring the ratio to between 40 and 50 per cent, not very different from other industrialized countries.)

Sir Freddie Laker, the man who pioneered cheap air travel with his transatlantic Skytrain service, seemed close to solving the crisis facing Laker Airways last night. Attempts over several months to reschedule £339m (£190m) of loans used to buy aircraft had run into trouble and amid mounting concern the Bank of England joined the effort to find an answer. Yesterday evening it appeared that a solution was imminent.

The crisis threatening to overwhelm Laker was brought to a head by the refusal of three foreign banks owed \$27m to agree to the debt rescheduling proposals. The banks, Dresdner Bank and Bayerische Vereinsbank of West Germany and the Austrian Creditanstalt-Bankverein, are part of the 13-member Midland Bank syndicate which lent Laker \$131m to buy three A-300 airbuses from Airbus Industrie.

They were the only ones which would not go along with proposals to delay for 12 months two \$6.9m capital repayments due in January and July 1981.

The failure of the Midland Bank syndicate to reach agreement in turn threatened the deal hammered out with the American government agency Eximbank which led a syndicate providing Laker with \$228m to buy five McDonnell Douglas DC10s. Laker was due to repay \$12.6m of this in September, but a breathing space was granted and in November Eximbank agreed to a 12-month rescheduling provided a deal was reached with the Midland syndicate.

At the end of last week the Eximbank deadline expired and a deadline of January 6 was set.

Concern over Laker's financial state and the appalling conditions on the transatlantic air routes, where all the airlines are making heavy losses, lay behind the refusal of the Austrian and two West German banks to step into line.

In financial terms 1980 was the worst year yet for airlines and 1981

# How Laker hit an air-pocket

'In financial terms 1980 was the worst year yet for airlines and 1981 is expected to have been just as bad — possibly worse'

Sir Freddie Laker in happier days with the arrival of his first Airbus at Gatwick.



and beefing up the board with new directors. However the sticking point was the risk the three banks were prepared to accept.

The members of the Midland syndicate had some protection. Airbus Industrie carries the first 25 per cent of any losses on its loans. But the Austrian and German banks felt that the risks were too great for them to continue bearing the other 75 per cent and wanted their exposure reduced.

It was against this background that the Bank of England assumed a more prominent role and the focus of negotiation shifted from the Midland syndicate to intensive talks with Sir Freddie and his merchant bank Samuel Montagu and with Midland Bank to try to find a way out of the impasse.

The negotiations have included the Department of Trade and the two aircraft manufacturers Airbus Industrie and McDonnell Douglas who may prove to be crucial in any solution.

Rescheduling debt repayments would ease pressure on Laker's cash flow but may not be enough to ensure viability when the airline is in such difficulties.

Some change in the terms on which Laker acquired its DC10s from McDonnell Douglas and A-300s from Airbus Industrie may be one solution. This could perhaps involve the aircraft manufacturers sharing a greater part of the risk or even making some more direct contribution to help Laker out.

Time is running out and the only other solution to Laker's problems would seem to be a request for aid or a loan guarantee from the Government. This possibility has been discussed but no formal request has been made. It is certainly hard to imagine the Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher looking kindly on the idea of bailing out one of the models of free enterprise.

Peter Wilson-Smith

## Melvyn Westlake

# Latin America — a monetarist test-bed

It is not only in Britain that monetarist economic policies stand at the crossroads. In Latin America, where several military governments have used such policies to impose stability and discipline in their countries — sometimes with great severity — monetarism is facing its most serious test. Argentina, Uruguay and Chile all face mounting economic problems.

What happens in these countries could have enormous implications for much of the rest of the Third World, where several governments are flirting with monetarism.

For Latin America, an area of deep ideological division, monetarism has become another battleground in the struggle between the political left and right.

Chile, in particular, is seen by both sides as a "laboratory" for a monetarist experiment of most rigorous kind. The outcome could be significant for industrialized countries as well as developing ones — a point that is not lost on the supporters and critics of monetarism in the United States.

In its modern form, monetarism was introduced into Latin America before either Britain or the United States adopted such policies. It formed part of the economic stabilization programme carried out in Brazil between 1964-68 following the military takeover. But the country's tough free-market approach was progressively watered down after 1968.

In Uruguay, monetarist policies were adopted after the so-called "soft coup" in 1973 when the military greatly intensified their grip over the country, without, at that stage, taking over the Government.

It was also in that year that General Augusto Pinochet

led the military coup in Chile that toppled the democratically-elected Government of Dr Salvador Allende. General Pinochet's regime subsequently imposed — during 1975-76 — a drastic austerity programme which resulted in the worst depression experienced in that country since the 1930s.

The military men who came to power in Argentina, in 1976 similarly resorted to monetarist and free-market policies.

In each case, monetarism has been part of a wider "reform" aimed (if not always successfully) at restructuring the economy along classical liberal lines.

Usually, prices and interest rates have been de-regulated, public spending cut back, welfare subsidies removed, export taxes and import tariffs reduced or eliminated, and state industries sold off to private enterprise. And all this has been accompanied by tough monetary control and credit squeeze, together with repressive measures against organized labour and left-wing opposition.

Today, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile are all in recession. In Uruguay, unemployment and inflation are both rising, and the country's foreign debt is increasing rapidly.

The situation in Argentina is much worse than in the other two countries. Unemployment is 20 per cent and prices are rising faster than almost anywhere else in the world, running close to 150 per cent.

In March, Argentina was finally forced to change tack and jettison some of its previous policies.

Even in Chile, which has applied the monetarist doctrines with an exemplary zeal, the situation has clearly improved. The largest fruit exporting company and a big sugar refining company

have both recently gone bankrupt. And, the Government has also had to take control of a number of Chilean banks.

"Chilean monetarism is probably entering its crisis", according to David Felix, Professor of Economics at Washington University, St. Louis, and author of one of several papers on monetarism and the Third World, which appear in the latest issue of *Bulletin*, published today by the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University.

Apart from the fervour of its monetarism, the Chilean situation is distinguished by the emergence of the so-called "Chicago Boys" — a group of economists trained at the University of Chicago — the spiritual home of modern monetarism. Those who approve what the Chicago Boys are doing emphasize the recent high growth rates, the decline in inflation, the expansion of the export sector, the increase in foreign exchange reserves, the fall in state spending and the balanced budget.

Critics, on the other hand, point to the high rates of unemployment, the worsening distribution of income and wealth, the rise in foreign debt and the lack of business investment, as well as the suppression of democracy and the Government's systematic use of political violence to achieve its ends. There was certainly a marked improvement in some aspects of the economy during the second half of the 1970s.

The economic stabilization programme of 1975-76 did succeed in getting inflation down from the level of over 500 per cent, which followed the loss of control over prices during the later part of the Allende period. In 1980, inflation was down to 30 per cent, and in the first three quarters of 1981 was running at less than half that rate.

To the extent of the squeeze can be judged from the fact that the budget deficit was reduced nearly 24 per cent of

gross domestic product under Allende to little more than 1 per cent in 1978; and real interest rates (after allowing for inflation) did not go below 40 per cent for several years.

But this stabilization programme had enormous costs. "Open" unemployment soared to 20 per cent in Santiago, and poverty and hunger increased dramatically. The level of jobless is now said officially to be back down to around 11 per cent — compared with 4 per cent in 1971 and 1972 — although this is claimed by some critics to be a gross underestimate.

The savage deflation gave way to several years of rapid economic growth, which the World Bank was moved to describe as a "remarkable turnaround". Indeed, between 1977 and 1979, the economy grew in real terms by more than 8 per cent a year, although to some extent this simply reflected a rebound after the 11 per cent slump in 1975 (made worse by falling copper prices and the oil price increase). By 1980 the growth rate had slowed to 6½ per cent, and this year is likely to be below 4 per cent.

The negative side of the balance sheet is increasingly apparent. The foreign trade deficit is deteriorating rapidly. In the first nine months of 1981, the deficit reached \$2,200m, or about four times the deficit in the same period of 1980. Imports were up 28 per cent and exports down 14 per cent. The import liberalization, which brought tariffs tumbling down from around 100 per cent to approaching 10 per cent, has led to a big jump in imports of luxury consumer durables.

The trade position has also been made worse by the overvaluation of the Chilean peso against other currencies. The exchange rate is being deliberately kept high in order to help bring inflation down, and the foreign deficit financed by large inflows of short-term speculative money, attracted by the high interest rates. This has greatly added to Chile's short-term foreign debts, while interest charges and repayments have placed an increasing burden on the balance of payments.

Equally disturbing, in the view of some observers, the high domestic interest rates and cheap imports have discouraged business investment, both from abroad and at home. Although such investment is the seed-corn of future economic growth, it remains substantially below the level of the 1960s.

But perhaps the most damaging indictment of Chilean monetarism is the apparent marked increase in income inequality, although the figures are hazy and disputed.

In spite of the turmoil of the Allende years, the disparity in living standards between rich and poor were probably reduced. Even the official statistics suggest that wages and salaries now account for only 41 per cent of national income, compared with 62.8 per cent in 1972 and 52 per cent in 1970.

The unemployed have suffered particularly badly. Simultaneously, wealth has become still more concentrated in a few hands. But with the demise of the Somoza regime in Nicaragua, Chile probably has the greatest concentration of wealth in Latin America, according to Professor Felix. Five economic groups, known as the "piranhas", are estimated, by the author of another paper in *IDS Bulletin*, to own 53 per cent of the assets of the top 250 private companies in Chile. This situation was made worse by the wholesale dismemberment of the state enterprise sector, and the sale of the assets to private companies at heavily undervalued prices.

Even the World Bank — otherwise approving of economic policy in Chile — expressed concern about the trend of income distribution and asset ownership. Chile, along with Argentina and Britain, has been in relative economic decline for several decades, and has grasped at every more desperate remedy. There are few signs that the latest of them will succeed where others have failed.

## Business Diary: Live wires and ocean waves

For a moment yesterday I thought Business Diary was to go out on a high note this year by throwing some fresh light on the mystery of the Loch Ness monster. But was not to be.

Peter Young and Norman Bellamy showed me a photograph of this serpent-like thingie with bumps on bobbing about in the loch. Nessie to the life, I thought, but it turns out to have been there for less than five years, and Nessie has been around for a lot longer than that.

The picture they showed me was in fact of something man-made: it is called SEA-Clam, and it is a wave-energy device by which electricity is generated by the action of the sea on flexible airbags attached to turbines inside a long floating concrete spine.

SEA-Clam was tested on Loch Ness, having been developed by a team under Bellamy, who is the head of electrical and electronic engineering at Lanchester Poly, high and dry in Coventry.

Bellamy and SEA-Clam has the backing of the Department of Energy and of Sea Energy Associates, a consortium of which Young, a director of RMC, is chairman.

Young says that one floating power station of SEA-Clams could produce about a fifth of Britain's electricity and about the same as coal, but still more expensively than by nuclear power.

British have the best waves in terms of energy density in the world. This is a sentiment with which many Britons might concur, notably those still mopping up at Wick St Lawrence in Avon, who until last weekend's storms thought the Bristol Channel was three quarters of a mile away.

However, it is not to the West Country but to the Western Isles that Young and Bellamy are looking. Here the waves have a clear run across the Atlantic all the way from the West Indies to the Outer Hebrides. Sea Energy Associates is itching to string an 80-mile stretch of super-tanker length Nessies about two miles out, both as a working power station and as a showcase for export sales.

## Technical hitch

The Accounting Standards Committee, the profession's technical rule-making body, has got a new chairman at last.

The new man is Ian Davison, managing partner of top accountants Arthur Andersen, who is also being spoken of as the man who will conduct the forthcoming government review of the future of British Rail, but yesterday Davison told *Business Diary* that such notions are "pure speculation".



Standards bearer: Ian Davison, the new chairman of the Accounting Standards Committee, yesterday.

such as chairing two of Granada TV's State of the nation programmes and acting as Department of Trade Inspector into the cases of Gray's Building Society and John Stonehouse's London Capital Securities.

Davison says he will take up the post officially on July 1 when the present chairman, Tom Watts of Price Waterhouse, stands down, but plans no quick radical changes.

"I'll be joining the committee as an ordinary member shortly to find out how things stand", he said. The ACS job is not exactly sought after as it involves more public exposure and professional controversy than most accountants have a taste for. Sir Douglas Mott of Touche, Ross was to have succeeded Tom Watts in this job but backed down at the last minute in August.

## After Frodsham

Britain's engineering employers have at last found themselves a new leader. Dr James McFarlane, has taken over the director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) for their last seven years. He steps down in February.

McFarlane, aged 55, will take over at the EEF at a time when the vital engineering sector is undergoing major structural change and facing serious internal arguments over the future validity of national collective pay bargaining.

As a main board director of GKN, Britain's largest engineering group, McFarlane should have sufficient experience to understand the problems of the EEF's 6,000 member companies, many in dire trouble these days, and weld them into united front against the engineering unions and the government.

McFarlane's first round of national pay talks starts next autumn.

McFarlane has an impressive management record at GKN and has served its apprenticeship on many EEF committees. He joined GKN in 1969 after working for ICI and International Nickel and in 1977 became GKN's group general manager.

The EEF's recruitment expert, the London-based Dyson-Wright company, has had to work hard to find a successor to Frodsham for the post, reputed to carry a salary of close to £40,000 a year. At least one preferred

candidate backed down.

With McFarlane, the EEF seems to have decided to play safe and selected a man who, while not well known outside the firm, has a proven record as an engineering and committee man.

## Continental drift

Cox & Kings, which claims to be Britain's oldest travel agency, launched its France and one Thomas Cox, who was agent for the British Army there, predating Thomas Cook by about a century.

Cox & Kings no longer assists well-bred girls to get themselves and their trousseaus from Albion to the Sub-Continent and its eligible empire-builders. Today it's sights and smells rather than spouses that are the attraction in package tours.

But, says chairman Anthony Good, Cox & Kings is still the biggest British agency in Indian holiday travel.

No wonder the tax avoidance industry is on the rocks. After my report yesterday on the falling of the judicial axe on the "Reckitt" "non-deposit" tax avoidance scheme, I received a call from a City tax consultant asking me to explain how the scheme worked. Is this why people in this office keep telling me I'm in the wrong business?

Ross Davies

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange and is not an invitation to any person to subscribe for or to purchase any share capital of the Company.

## UNITED ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967)  
(Registered in England No. 944,463)

SHARE CAPITAL	
Authorised	Issued
£5,500,000	£5,213,655

Following the passing of the Ordinary Resolution proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held at 12 noon on 17th December, 1981, the acquisitions of Micro Consultants Limited, Micro Consultants Inc. and Micro Consultants Technology Inc. have been completed.

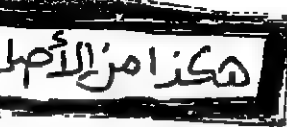
The Council of The Stock Exchange has readmitted the entire issued share capital of the Company to the Official List. It is expected that dealings will commence on 21st December, 1981.

Particulars of the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and bank holidays excepted) up to and including 2nd January, 1982 from:—

N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London E.C.4	Sheppard and Associates, Clements House, Gresham Street, London E.C.2	Cassels & Co., 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London E.C.3
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**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**



• Ex dividend. • Ex all. • Forcum dividend. • Cum dividend. • Interest payment named. • Price at suspension. Dividend and field exclude a special payment. • Ex company. • Pre-merger figure. • Forcum earnings. capital distribution. • Ex rights. • Ex only or there a tax free. • Price adjusted for late dealings. • Significant data.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Bids make most of the running

As dealers became more involved in the traditional round of cocktail parties yesterday it was again left to bid situations to make the running.

Prominent among these was the dawn raid by brokers Stenberg, Thomas Clarke, on behalf of an unnamed investment client, who bid 125p for 2m shares in Healey, the motor dealer. Unfortunately with two large buyers active in the market on Wednesday Stenberg appear to have fallen well short of the target with around only 500,000 shares picked up — half of which were sold by British Car Auction.

Earlier shares of this account stood at 69p before rising to 75p yesterday. An inquiry is expected to be called into all previous dealings.

The rest of the equity market appeared to be making slow progress with turnover described as minimal. The FT index closed 1.9 down at 518.7 having opened the day 0.2 down at 516m.

The gilt edged market appeared short of inspiration with sterling lower, the US bond market easier, and a dull set of money supply figures.

Prices drifted throughout the day on lack of interest with the final picture showing falls of 1/4 in longs and 1/2 in shorts.

Jessel Toyne closed unchanged at 62p after the Kuwait Investment Office had announced it had bought 1.02m shares, or 7.74 per cent of the company, at market levels.

Capital & Counties jumped 9p to 115p on the news that the Union Corporation of

South Africa was selling its 32 per cent stake to one of South Africa's biggest insurance groups, Liberty Life, for £26m.

Burmah Oil has been the target of some solid support recently, reflecting the wave of optimism surrounding the development of its automotive division. After reaching a low of 125p, the share price rose to 127p.

Thomas Tilling rose 3p to 147p after hearing the news that the board of Berac had agreed to the latest offer

from Hanson Trust of 150p a share. Hanson holds 26 per cent of Berac.

Half-year figures from Distillers proved to be at the lower end of expectations and the subsequent warning on trading knocked the shares 14p to 155p. There have been rumours that the group has recently bought a stake in Bank of Scotland, which incidentally holds 25 per cent of Healey. But the group is reckoned to have bought the stake, totalling less than 5 per cent, as far back as June.

Better-than-expected trading news boosted Guyline 8p to 158p and English Clays 8p to 159p, while Whessex celebrated a return to profits and its first final dividend since 1979 with a rise of 6p to 148p.

Equity turnover on December 16 was £107.434m (10, 404 bargains).

Word is that Reynold Diversified, the Australian Oil & Gas exploration group, is about to receive a cash injection for the development of several of its oil exploration projects in the United States and Middle East. The shares, a favourite with small investors, and traded under rule 163(E) yesterday touched 3p before closing at 2 1/2p.

Traded options: Total contracts amounted to only 530, with Imperial Group prominent on 133.

Traditional options saw calls on declaration day in LOF on P & O on 13p, Town & City on 3p Nimslo on 27p.

## Latest results

Company	Share price	Profit	Dividend	Dividend yield	Dividend cover	Dividend growth
AE (P)	441.1(441.7)	107.2	1.4(4.9)	1.4(1.3)	1/3	1.4(3)
British Steel (P)	24.0(23.5)	0.02(0.02)	0.41(0.40)	1.6(1.6)	1/3	1.6(1.6)
British Steel (S)	24.0(23.5)	0.02(0.02)	0.41(0.40)	1.6(1.6)	1/3	1.6(1.6)
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## One-for-one scrip issue at Whessoe

Whessoe, the Darlington-based engineering group, fulfilled its half-year recovery forecast yesterday when it announced a return to profitability for the year to September.

Pretax profits were £4.6m against a loss of £412,000, on sales almost a third higher at £73.6m.

The group is declaring a first dividend for the first time since 1979. The payout for the year totals 11.46p. It is also making a one-for-one scrip issue.

Lord Eroll of Hale, the chairman, yesterday attributed the improvement to a return to profit at Whessoe Engineering after heavy losses last year.

At the trading level, heavy engineering contributed £5m to group earnings, against 2m a year earlier.

Light engineering increased its contribution from 733,000 to £1.2m. Good profits from the British and Australian subsidiaries of the third division, Alton, were offset by losses in Canada, still suffering from contract losses last year.

Lord Eroll says that cash flow was strongly positive during the year and that net borrowings were sharply reduced. Interest charges fell on £1.6m to £580,000.

The figures also include an extraordinary item of £2.6m release of deferred tax. The net profit was £7.3m against 1980's loss of 95,000.

## AE profits collapse to £1m

Despite a second half return to profitability on the back of a £17m rationalization plan, AE, the precision engineering group, announced yesterday a collapse in full-year pretax profits to £1m from £7.8m the previous year.

The decline reflected continuing low demand for replacement components in the United Kingdom, reduced demand for new components for vehicle production in Europe, tighter export margins and redundancy payments.

Sales in the 12 months to September 30 were little changed from a year earlier at £44.1m. Mr. John Collyer, the managing director, said that adjusting for the disposal of the group's heat transfer division in August, there was an underlying increase in sales of 4 per cent.

He pointed to higher second half sales and pretax profits as against the previous second half as an early indication of the benefits of the two-year rationalization plan, which cost £2.5m during the year.

Mr. Collyer said that profit before interest of the group's manufacturing companies increased, while that of the overseas companies fell.

Mr. Collyer says the group's gearing has been reduced from 52 per cent to 50 per cent.

Having omitted a half time dividend, the group is declaring a final dividend of 2p gross against 4.2p for the previous year. The shares gained 6p to 44p.

## UK milk side boosts first half results at Unigate

Unigate, the milk and meat producer, has staged a substantial recovery for the half-year to September 30, with pretax profits up 38 per cent to £20.1m and turnover up 6 per cent at £710m.

Mr. John Clement, the chairman, said the improvement was based on extensive efficiencies made throughout the group and price increases in January.

The most dramatic improvement came from UK milk products which almost doubled their profitability from £8m to £15.9m. Industrial services, which include Sea oil interests, jumped from £1m to £2.8m, though a £1.3m loss was made on meat products, down against a profit of £2.8m.

Mr. Clement said these losses would have been worse if Scot Meat had not been sold, but the company was continuing to support its remaining meat interests in the belief that it could overcome the present weakness of the market.

The recently acquired subsidiaries in the food division, Clippert Seafoods and Turners Turkeys, had broadened the base of operations and both were performing satisfactorily, he added.

Further food diversification took place in October when the group bought Casa Bonita, an American restaurant chain.

The half-year dividend from 3.15p to 3.57p. Earnings per share were also up from 5.2p per ordinary share to 7p.

## Arthur Lee improves in second half

The pretax loss of Arthur Lee and Sons jumped from £93,000 to £13.8m in the year to September 30 last. However, this result is a big improvement on the rate of losses — £2.65m pretax — sustained in the first half-year. And, with a tax credit of £5m, against £113,000 last time, Lee has a net profit of £1.8m, compared with just £20,000.

Turnover for the year dropped from £58.8m to £50.2m. The group's overdraft has been cut from £4.6m to £2.7m. Lee is now trading profitably and the total dividend is being maintained at 0.62p gross a share.

## Wall St

New York, Dec. 17. — Stocks were slightly higher as investors continued to exhibit concern in the deteriorating economy and the worsening crisis in Iran.

The Dow Jones industrial average was slightly lower most of the day but gained strength near the close and finished up by 1.81 points at 2732.33. The S&P 500 index rose 1.25 points to 107.12. Volume rose to 47 million shares from 42.4 million yesterday.

Mr. Michael Metz of Oppenheimer and Co. said the market might be attempting to rally.

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## Commodities

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## England's footballers put their trust in a Yorkshireman with no fancy London airs

## The man who controls superstars

How on earth did Harry Swales ever do it? You may not have heard of him, unless you happen to be a sports editor of a national newspaper, or work in advertising, television or sponsoring, but what he does should interest you. Harold Swales, MBE, is the agent for England's World Cup football team.

He has kept a dull abode and a quiet life, but he has been successful. He has organized the team's travel, accommodation, and everything else that goes into making a team of superstars function as a unit.

He is difficult to meet, especially these days, ever since Paul Mariner, by great good fortune, struck out a foot to a Trevor Brooking miskick and took England into the World Cup finals in Spain. Until then, the team had been a laughing stock.

For the moment, the world and his better have been after Mr. Swales.

For a start, he lives in the village of Collingham, near York, in Yorkshire. Where, you are asking your personal assistant and your marketing director to get out the gazetteer at once? In the world of agents, where the superstars are the clients, it is not unusual for a man to be a Yorkshireman, with only his wife to help him answer the telephone.

For an hour in the foyer at Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane in London where Mr. Swales now stays on his regular but fleeting visits to the capital. We watched the mysterious Arab and their mysterious daughters, chewing gum through their veils and wearing training shoes. Oh, isn't that Jackie Stewart over there, friend of the Royals? Yes indeed. And that must be Kevin Keegan, wearing an evening suit, our first footballing millionaire.

Mr. Swales is also Keegan's agent and he has worked hard to help him achieve household name status. He has been in Harry's hotel room to change in, getting ready for another function. Top footballers spend a lot of time at functions, especially if they are looked after by Mr. Swales.

He appeared looking neat and dapper with an RAF moustache which curled across his face, open and to the point, his Yorkshire accent and north-east bluntness intact. He is 56 and comes from the village where he still lives. He left school in Leeds at 16 and in 1943 went into the Army, the Royal Horse Artillery, where he served as a driver for six years, in Europe and the Middle East.

He came out in 1947 and became a salesman for Warner Parth Films, working for them for 22 years, ending as assistant sales manager. It was a purely commercial job, selling films to distributors, but through it, he says, he drifted into the world of sports. He was one of the people in the theatre and sport sponsoring personalities. He also did a lot of charity work for the Variety Club of Great Britain.

About thirteen years ago, he decided to set up on his own as a sports agent, having come to know Don Revie and the officials and players of his local club in Yorkshire, Leeds United, who first glimpsed the

money to be made out of football — off the pitch as well as on it. Remember all those new styles, new gimmicks, I still have a set of number tabs, which you put on your football socks, one of the few ideas not to be commercially successful. It was Harry Swales who did the deal with the Leicestershire firm, Admiral, which is now part of footballing history.

Swales also looked after the players' pool at Leeds. They won the FA Cup in 1972 and he organized their bits and pieces from advertising, photography, appearances, signed articles and such like. He did such a good job for them that Liverpool asked him to help them, so did Celtic and then Southampton.

It was through Liverpool that he met Keegan. When Keegan moved to Hamburg in 1977, he left Swales virtually in charge of his British commitments. Harry decided this was the time to devote himself full-time to Keegan, which he did. In October, 1979, the English players approached him about their pool. Today, Swales is after only England and Keegan.

Meeting Keegan was a stroke of luck for him, but the benefit was mutual. So many players, who are not successful, can easily choose to listen to wrong advice, swayed by metropolitan manners, expensive suits, knowing ways. Keegan is not just England's only recognised world class player, he happens to be an all round "superstar", perhaps the smartest, most energetic person to wear an England shirt.

Anybody who saw him arrive as a stranger in Germany, with no language, no connections, and then dominate his world both on and off the pitch, can only admire him. He saw the benefit of putting his affairs in the hands of a one-man band, an upright Yorkshireman, with no fancy London airs and distracting graces.

Swales says his role with England is constantly being misunderstood, perhaps willfully. He is not involved physically in the lives of the England players, although he is accused of doing so. I would never interrupt their concentration on football. No one in their right mind would want to interfere with the England training schedule. I look after the use of their image. Perhaps, after a game is over, they might be involved physically in some promotion.

Most football clubs have a pool of players who are at all successful. The FA Cup final, for example, will decide to pool all the revenue they can make from their Cup success, dividing it equally between the players, usually from 15 to 18, who are in the team pool. If they look like doing well, they hand over all the paper work and negotiations to one person, for a percentage of course.

England pool is more complicated. Under Swales, it has developed into an ongoing situation, as of this moment in time. You get a point every time you are named in the England squad. At the end of each season, the pool is added up — under Ron Greenwood almost 30 different players have been called up in the last year — and the spoils are divided according to your points. As England have not won a trophy since 1966, the pool is small, but it is there.

Swales says he is not a sports agent, having come to know Don Revie and the officials and players of his local club in Yorkshire, Leeds United, who first glimpsed the

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Harry Swales: says his role is constantly misunderstood

## Tennis Where one hand is thought better than two

From John Ballantine New Jersey, Dec. 17

With three of the four players involved in the most crucial matches of the 1981-82 Volvo World Tennis Open, the tennis world is watching a series of matches that could decide the fate of the tournament.

Chris Lloyd, Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaeger, all favoring double-handed backhands, are the three players who are expected to be the most successful in the tournament.

Chris Lloyd, ranked 131, is enjoying a nine-match unbeaten run and last Sunday won the quarter-final match against the defending champion, John McEnroe.

Lloyd is a former Wimbledon champion and is known for his powerful backhand and his ability to play both hands.

Tracy Austin, ranked 132, is also a former Wimbledon champion and is known for her powerful backhand and her ability to play both hands.

Andrea Jaeger, ranked 133, is also a former Wimbledon champion and is known for her powerful backhand and her ability to play both hands.

The tournament is being held at the Grand Slam Tennis Club in New Jersey and is expected to attract a large crowd of spectators.

## Tanner the latest seed to lose in NSW Open

Sydney, Dec. 17. — Chris Johnston of West Australia continued the run of seeded players in the NSW Open tennis tournament, losing to a 3-6, 6-3 victory over Roscoe Tanner, the second seed.

Only three seeds — Mark Edmondson, Chris Lloyd (12) and Hank Pfister (13) — have survived to reach tomorrow's quarter-finals.

The fourth seed, John Kriek, of South Africa, lost to the defending champion, John McEnroe, in the quarter-final match.

Chris Johnston, ranked 131, is enjoying a nine-match unbeaten run and last Sunday won the quarter-final match against the defending champion, John McEnroe.

Johnston is a former Wimbledon champion and is known for his powerful backhand and his ability to play both hands.

Roscoe Tanner, ranked 132, is also a former Wimbledon champion and is known for his powerful backhand and his ability to play both hands.

The tournament is being held at the Grand Slam Tennis Club in Sydney and is expected to attract a large crowd of spectators.

## Sweden sweep through to quarter-finals

Delray Beach, Florida, Dec. 17. — The top five seeded teams, led by the defending champions, Sweden, are through to the quarter-finals of the Sunshine Cup boys' tennis tournament.

Sweden, the top seeded country to reach the world's leading trophy for players of 18 and under, beat the Netherlands 3-0, while the British pair, David Shaw and David Felgate, were soundly beaten 3-6 by the third seeds, the United States.

RESULTS: Sweden 3, Netherlands 0; Britain 3, United States 0; Sweden 3, Netherlands 0; Britain 3, United States 0.

The tournament is being held at the Grand Slam Tennis Club in Delray Beach and is expected to attract a large crowd of spectators.

## US juniors make easy progress

Tarpon Springs, Florida, Dec. 17. — The defending champions, the United States, and China had easy victories against their opponents yesterday to reach the quarter-final. Earlier a Wednesday, the United States beat the third-seeds, Spain, 3-1. West Germany defeated the Netherlands 2-1 and Italy beat Canada, 2-0.

RESULTS: United States 3, Spain 1; West Germany 2, Netherlands 1; Italy 2, Canada 0.

The tournament is being held at the Grand Slam Tennis Club in Tarpon Springs and is expected to attract a large crowd of spectators.



## Football

## Genuine supporters made to suffer for the acts of hooligans

By Stuart Jones

Football Correspondent

Hooligans, the lopers within the modern game, have yet to be controlled, let alone curbed. The power of the Football Association, the domestic ruling body, is as much reduced as that of the European counterparts. Last season UEFA closed Upton Park's doors for West Ham United's Cup final against Arsenal. The club's supporters, who had been told that the stadium was closed, were made to suffer for the acts of hooligans.

On Wednesday the FA banned Chelsea's away supporters for the rest of the season and ordered the club to pay £1,000 to each of the home clubs involved in their remaining fixtures. The ruling, after damage worth £2,500 had been caused at Derby County's ground, could have been less severe. Sheffield Wednesday, for instance, were forced to pay £5,000 to four home clubs for their supporters' behaviour at Oldham last season.

The financial losses are meaningful only in that they ensure an already critical economic decline, especially in the case of Chelsea, who are awaiting official confirmation of the hearing. The banning of supporters is equally futile. Those who think that there will be no more violence at football matches are merely deluding themselves.

Merely, the only way to deter some, but probably not all, of the troublemakers.

Once again the problem has been tackled in the wrong way. The FA, who must be seen to be attempting to reduce violence, particularly with regard to the hooligans, are not to blame. Although the penalties they can

impose are limited, all of them are aimed at collective bodies of club supporters. That is not where the root of the evil lies.

The behaviour of those travelling on special trains and holding official tickets is usually impeccable. They are, after all, genuine supporters. It is the irresponsible individuals beyond the control of clubs as well as the police, parents and society as a whole, who need to be weeded out and subsequently punished more harshly than they are at present.

A fine of £20, for example, for the Chelsea youth who threw a brick at a policeman is a very lenient. Even £200 can be rapidly collected by his friends. Stiffer prison sentences is not only a negative solution but would also increase the overcrowding of institutions and introduce young offenders to a world of more dangerous criminal elements.

All of those arrested at the Baseball Ground last month should have been forced either to attend detention centres or to do social work on every Saturday afternoon and evening during the week for at least the rest of the season, if not longer.

The majority would not suffer such rough justice and no one would be inconvenienced except the offenders themselves.

Chelsea's chairman, manager, held several meetings with their young supporters to talk about crowd trouble, a leading cause of the club's problems. Those who do not seem to be devoted to thought, it is not about time they were taught to think and to be aware of the consequences of their appalling anti-social actions?

## Managers of Ireland earn new contracts

As one Irish manager agreed to a new contract yesterday, another prepared to receive one. The signed contract is Billy Birmingham's reward for taking Northern Ireland to the World Cup final and the one probably awarded Ron Hand's signature is obviously an acknowledgement of his feat in taking the Republic of Ireland so close to qualification for Spain.

Mr Birmingham is happy with the terms of a three-year contract offered by the Irish Football Association. Cash details have not been disclosed but the agreement has been reached on what must be a five-figure sum.

"I've got a good contract and I'm satisfied," Mr Birmingham said. "It didn't cost them the Bank of Monte Carlo, but it's a fair deal."

The first was chosen by Mr Birmingham as he pondered the position of a back-up squad for the finals in Berlin. Peacock-like Mr Birmingham, one of the best of Northern Ireland's World Cup appearances in 1980, Mr Peacock, a publican in Coleraine, has joined a party for Spain as an assistant manager.

Mr Hand, the former Sunderland half back, has been chosen as assistant manager. Mr Hand is assistant to the Plymouth Argyle manager Bobby Moncur, who has already given his agreement and the appointment is likely to be confirmed within the next few days.

Mr Hand's contract with the Republic of Ireland is expected to run until the European Championship finals in 1984.

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## Cricket

## England lose concentration on a wicket showing signs of wear

From Richard Streeton

Jammu, Dec 17

England suffered the rare indignity, for a three-day match in India, of finishing behind on the first morning against North Zone here today. Some wretched batting caused England's dismissal for 154 in reply to North Zone's score of 167 by the close of the first day.

Although the wicket was starting to show signs of wear there was a clear concentration about England's performance. Chaudhary and Lamba, the North Zone opening batsmen, showed more assurance later when they shared a first wicket stand of 71 in 115 minutes.

They drove and cut. Allon and Lever and when Embury bowled he did not get the same assurance from the pitch as the home spinners had done. Chaudhary gave one chance at 21 to the slips and was beaten through the air by Embury half an hour from the end but there was no doubt that North Zone, having been outplayed on Wednesday, had come back strongly.

Even Raman Subba Row, the England manager, was not particularly disturbed. "It was a pretty disappointing performance. You cannot paper over the cracks. We will have a lot better in the second innings. I am particularly upset over the unnecessary dismissal. When a wicket is lost, it is not only a loss of a batsman but also a loss of a batsman's wicket."

Mr Hand was taken to be a reference to Gower's failure. He was run out for the third time on the tour.

England's batting, to be frank, was poor and uninspired and that takes nothing away from North Zone who bowled some excellent cricket. England lost six wickets, while 85 runs were added to the overnight total in an hour after lunch.

Sharma and Amarnath bowled most of the day, Sharma being the more effective. Sharma, bowling in the morning, was better than the afternoon. Sharma, bowling in the morning, was better than the afternoon.

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Getting: showed more determination than most

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## Home truths aired on rigging of pitches

By John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

Some home truths were aired at Lord's yesterday, who was the winner of the Test and County Cricket Board, about the rigging of pitches. More comes than ever before seem to have been prepared to admit that they do prepare pitches to suit their own home bowlers, rather than try to make them as level as possible.

If more fingers were pointed at the new county champions, Nottinghamshire, who played at home yesterday, they are certainly not the only culprits. It is an old and not unusual practice. Why the authorities are so keen on the ability of rigging the pitch is not clear. It can be looked upon as sharp practice but for the damage it does to the game, it was described yesterday as a "totally unacceptable" practice.

All counties have undertaken to eliminate it. If at some future time the authorities are so keen on the ability of rigging the pitch is not clear. It can be looked upon as sharp practice but for the damage it does to the game, it was described yesterday as a "totally unacceptable" practice.

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## Weekend programme threatened again

Four of tonight's six league matches have been called off as snow and frost again threatened to disrupt the weekend football programme. Rotherham v Wrexham in the second division, Chester v Bristol City (third division) and the fourth division games between Trafford Rangers and Peterborough United and Scunthorpe United and Stockport County are all postponed.

Five Saturday matches have already been postponed and many more will probably follow. The fixtures to be affected are the games at Shrewsbury, Doncaster, Hereford, Wigan and York.

Birmingham City are to call in a referee this morning to make an early ruling on their pitch for tomorrow's first division game against Coventry City, but Jim Smith, Birmingham's manager, surveying the frozen, snow-covered surface, said: "I cannot see any hope of the game being played."

Manchester City's manager, John Bond, says that top clubs should have some form of under-soil heating to combat cold weather.

Leeds United were hit by an outbreak of influenza among their first team squad yesterday and today whether their match at Brighton tomorrow goes ahead.

When the players reported for their match at Brighton, five first team players were sent home by the club doctor. They were Lewis, Burns, Smith, Birmingham's manager, surveying the frozen, snow-covered surface, said: "I cannot see any hope of the game being played."

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## Boxing

## World 'passport' will make the ring a much safer place

By S. K. Sen

Boxing Correspondent

The first of the World Boxing Council's schemes to make the ring a safer place for boxers is the introduction of a 'passport' which will be issued to boxers by the International Boxing Federation (IBF) and the World Boxing Council (WBC) and will be valid for a period of 12 months. The passport will be issued to boxers who have been licensed by the International Boxing Federation (IBF) and the World Boxing Council (WBC) and will be valid for a period of 12 months. The passport will be issued to boxers who have been licensed by the International Boxing Federation (IBF) and the World Boxing Council (WBC) and will be valid for a period of 12 months.

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## Table tennis



Johnson: now well in the public eye

## Lowly England make their place secure

By a Special Correspondent

England's 4-3 win over Czechoslovakia in the European Superleague on Wednesday

which made them the top division in the new league

has been a surprise to many

because of the lowly status of the team

and the fact that they were

considered to be the weakest

of the four teams in the

league. However, they

have now proved their

worth and have secured

their place in the top

division. This is a

great achievement for

England and a testament

to the skill and

determination of the

players. The win was

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## Sports Council

## Sports aid to improve main grounds

By Ian Mackenzie

The Scottish Sports Council yesterday

announced a major

scheme to improve

the main grounds

at Hampden Park

and Murrayfield.

At a special meeting

in Edinburgh yesterday

the Council decided

to offer each

club £250,000 to

improve their

main grounds

over a period of

five years.

The Council's

scheme will be

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## MOTORING by Peter Waymark

## Driving safely through snow

The surest way to change the weather is to write a piece about driving in snow and ice, and by the time these words appear in print it is likely that the entire British Isles will be bathed in sunshine, with temperatures in the 70s.

The savage weather of the last week or so did, as usual, catch motorists on the hop, although in our defence it must be said that many of us can go through a whole winter without even seeing a snowflake. That, to a large extent, is the trouble: unlike our counterparts in, say, Scandinavia, we just do not get enough practice in coping with severe conditions.

How many drivers, as they slid on ice or hard-packed snow, could call upon any formal instruction in skid control? When did they last have to correct a skid? Even at low speed, to lose control of a car can be horrifying and the temptation is to do the worst possible thing and bang on the brakes.

It happened to me more than once last week. Driving the 5-litre 3 Class Mercedes as smoothly and gently as I could, taking care to dab the brakes and go easy on the throttle I still, on frozen slush, felt the wheels going. Remembering the two golden rules of skid control — feet off the pedals and steer in the direction of the skid — I just kept out of trouble.

But after the third such episode I decided that enough was enough and pulled thankfully into the side of the road. Almost opposite, as luck would have it, was a railway station and I joined British Rail's London-bound commuters for the rest of the journey.

It struck me that a heavy and powerful car like the Mercedes, with automatic transmission that gives less control over the gears, was not perhaps ideal for the conditions. Crawling along in traffic, with 240 hp fighting against the footbrake, there was a feeling of not being on top of things. Driving a humble Ford Escort, with manual box, I was much happier.

One of the main lessons from the last couple of weeks is that too many motorists simply do not adapt their driving to suit the changed circumstances. They go too fast and do not leave themselves enough space to stop in an emergency. Stopping distances on ice are reckoned to be ten times what they are on dry roads.

Then there is the extraordinary reluctance of some drivers to use headlights. The law says that dipped headlights must be used in poor visibility and blizzards surely come under that heading. Yet it was still possible to count several vehicles making do with sidelights and even no lights at all.

Fitting special winter tyres (sometimes called mud and slush tyres) can help to improve adhesion but since they cost about 10 per cent more than a standard tyre (around £30 each for a medium family car), the investment may not be considered worth it. Not to mention the bother of having to change the wheels each time that snow threatens.

There is a normal, small demand for such tyres that it does not even make them here, supplying the British market from its factory in France. It sells them to drivers who have to remain mobile whatever the weather.

Given such a recipe, the









**Edited by Peter Dear**

Andy Peebles 10.00 The Friday  
Show 12.00 Close VHF Radio

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between 3.13 Outside 4.00 World News  
 Country Music 6.00 News at Six  
 The World Today 5.00 World News  
 29 Jan Sat 8.00 World News 5.07  
 30 Jan Sun 8.00 World News 5.07  
 31 Jan Mon 8.45 Letterbox 8.50  
 1 Feb Tues 10.00 World News 10.08  
 2 Feb Wed 9.25 The Week in Wales  
 3 Feb Thurs 10.00 World News 10.08  
 4 Feb Sports Roundup 11.00 World News  
 5 Feb Commentary 11.15 From  
 Cardiff 11.30 Michael Singer 12.00  
 World News 12.00 News about Britain  
 6 Feb 12.15 News at One 1.00  
 7 Feb 1.15 Sales and Companies 1.15  
 8 Feb 1.45 News at Two 1.45  
 9 Feb 2.00 Review of the British  
 10 Feb 2.15 Network UK 2.20 Photo  
 11 Feb 2.30 News at Three 2.30  
 12 Feb 3.15 The Weekend Today 3.20  
 13 Feb 3.45 News at Four 4.00  
 14 Feb 4.50 The World To Watch

**Radio 1**  
 12-17 VHF RB-91MHz Radio 3  
 18-21 MF 72MHz 417m LBC MF  
 and VHF 94 MHz World Service

**TYNE TEES**

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 10.45 The 1000th Anniversary of  
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 "Carry On" humour but with a  
 different game, 5.15-5.45 Children  
 6.00-6.15 News, 6.15-6.30 News  
 6.30 Northern Line 7.00-  
 7.00 Film, Hot Rock (Robert Redford,  
 1971) 7.15-7.30 News, 7.30-7.45  
 Most impossible thing 10.30 News,  
 10.30 Friday Live 12.00 Superstar  
 12.05-12.15 News, 12.15-12.30  
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at Department is open for the  
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pages concerning classified  
on the telephone answering  
li. advertisements that have  
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number 01-837 1234, Extn 7180  
object to the conditions of  
pers limited, copies of which  
is one clear publishing  
for Wednesday, Friday for  
and Alterations to copy is 3.0  
publication; for Monday's issue  
Friday. On all cancellations a  
to the advertiser. On any  
of the cancellation, this Stop

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GALLERY**  
from 12.15 Monday to 5.30-5.45  
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Sais. 10-11

**COVENT GARDEN GALLERY** 20  
WATERLOO GALLERY 20  
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**ESKENAZI LIMITED**  
Furniture, Lighting, 141, 143, 145  
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149



## Tetanus risk of dressings in first aid kits

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Dressings which could be infected with tetanus or other bacteria have been sold for a number of years in Britain in home, car and office first aid kits. They should be treated with suspicion and burnt, the Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday.

Tests are being carried out at the Public Health Laboratories, Colindale, north London, to discover what organisms are present in the dressings imported from India.

The discovery that the dressings being sold by a certain Indian exporter were not sterile was made in Australia, when a woman developed gas gangrene after dressing a wound.

The Australian health authorities warned other importers about the danger and the British Department of Health issued a hazard notice on Monday.

The absorbent wound dressings are non-adhesive and are labelled 'Standard Dressing'.

## Tories are uneasy about GLC ruling

Continued from page 1

but for local government throughout the country. It turned back "sixty years" of social provision by local authorities and put "us back into a climate of opinion that says a councillor's prime aim is to keep rates down".

Mr David Wetzel, chairman of the GLC's transport committee, said that concessionary fares for children and old people might have to go. Traffic congestion, as a result of closure of bus and underground routes, would increase by up to 8 per cent.

The ruling provoked a call from Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the council's Conservative group, for Mr Livingstone to resign.

But among some Conservative councillors, jubilation became more muted as they examined the details of the judgment. "A prescription for chaos" was an early reaction by a senior Tory councillor. This had been turned to brief Mr Howell on the implications of the ruling.

Conservatives also seemed surprisingly reluctant to refer the issue to the district auditor so that Labour councillors would personally be proceeded against for the losses the GLC will incur.

Ironically, too, the decision is thought by moderate Labour GLC members to have strengthened Mr Livingstone's position. As well as the backing of the Labour group on the fare issue, he may win the support of the three Liberal/SDP Alliance members who have publicly deplored Bromley's action.

It will be three to four weeks before Bromley's 114,000 taxpayers get their money back. Mr Barkway said yesterday. About 65 per cent of them had already started paying by bankers' orders and other methods and 15 per cent had paid the rates in total. Not a penny had been handed over to the GLC.

The "fares fair" scheme, a main plank of the GLC Labour group's election manifesto, began on October 5. Minimum fares on buses dropped from 12 to 10p and some people found their travel costs halved.



The loser Mr David Wetzel (above), GLC transport committee chairman, and the victors, Mr Brian Reading (left), Bromley Council chairman, and councillor Dennis Barkway.



## Foot issues double challenge to Benn

Continued from page 1

In the face of the onslaught Mr Benn remained impassive, but some of his supporters were outraged. Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolton, stormed out of the meeting and cold waiting reporters that it had been "a complete grade against Tony Benn".

Perhaps the best received speech was that of Mr Mellish. He disclosed that in October he had applied for the Children's Fund, but had withdrawn the application after talking to Mr Foot.

Mr Foot, winding up the debate, made two direct challenges to Mr Benn. He denied Mr Benn's assertion that MPs had threatened to defect unless he took action against Mr Tatchell. He said Mr Benn should say who those people were. And he asked Mr Benn to renounce the "hit list" which appeared in *London Labour Briefing*, of those London MPs who had backed Mr Benn's leadership challenge.

Mr Foot again defended his action over disowning Mr Tatchell, saying that the article Mr Tatchell had written about extra-parliamentary activity at such a time in a constituency such as Southwark, Bermondsey, would have given ammunition to Labour's opponents.

He denied that he was proposing a witch-hunt but added: "There are more broomsticks in Bermondsey than anywhere else." In a strong appeal for unity, he urged the party in the 24 wards to carry out a self-denying ordinance against mutual attacks.

Labour's predicament is highlighted today in a Gallup poll in *The Daily Telegraph*, which indicates that more than the Social Democrat-Liberal Alliance, and that the SDP has increased its support by a third in the past month. Only 23.5 per cent of the voters polled supported Labour and 23 per cent the Conservatives.

Gallup questioned 846 electors between December 9 and 14. Their voting preferences, with the previous month's findings in brackets, were: Conservative, 23 (26.5); Labour, 23.5 (29); Liberal, 14.5 (15); SDP, 36 (27); Others, 3 (2.5).

Frank Johnson on Lord Scarman

## Stripped of his high office of Nice Judge

Labour MPs yesterday overruled their previous ruling on Lord Scarman.

Their decision, which was unanimous, came after they heard that five Law Lords, one of whom was Lord Scarman, had that morning decided that the Labour-controlled Greater London Council's subsidy to bus and Underground fares was illegal. In a series of carefully worded and weighty judgments, the five Law Lords, who were sitting in the House of Lords, ruled that the Labour benches after noon, Opposition members ruled that the Law Lords were ignorant, biased and blatant on the side of privilege.

This reversed a previous ruling made by the Labour Party ever since the Brighton riots, that Lord Scarman was "well-informed, independent of the Right Wing Establishment, unbiased and on the side of the oppressed".

It was an afternoon which made legal history. Lord Scarman was stripped of the great office of Nice Judge.

In all fairness to the hard Labour left, it should be said that the left-wingers have probably never shared the sentimental view of Lord Scarman. Their line is that, in conditions of capitalist modes of production, all judges are at the service of the ruling class.

But, ever since his incredibly compassionate inquiry into the summer disturbances, Lord Scarman has been the toast of softer, more middle class, progressives from Kenilworth all the way to Barnsley. The representatives of the class were dismissed as the hard left in the Commons yesterday. They united to berate Mr Scarman at Prime Minister's Question Time.

Mr Skinner, of the hard left, was the first to raise the matter. He asked Mr Scarman about "the obscene conspiracy of Law Lords and Tories".

Alas, one keeps on telling all those Labour cockneys not to bring into the chamber their stewed egg and bacon sandwiches.

## No public cash for Land's End, ministers decide

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Ministers decided yesterday not to pay part of the cost of buying Land's End for the nation. Officials said that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, had decided that the appeal for £500,000 could not be justified.

His decision caused confusion at the National Trust, which met yesterday in the hope of using a government contribution as a launching pad for a national appeal for the rest of the cost.

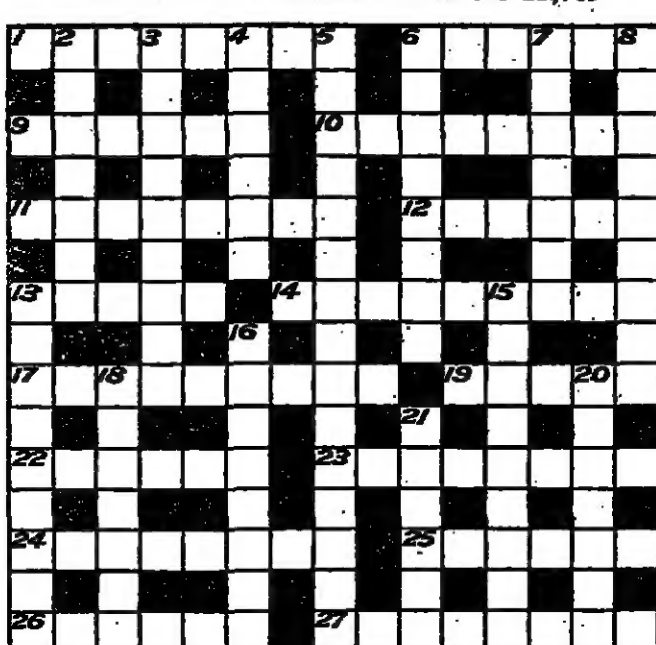
The property is being sold as a going concern by the family, which has owned it since the eighteenth century. The spectacular coastline and its romantic associations make

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

Royal engagements  
Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester attends Court Luncheon given by The Worshipful Company of Gardeners, Savile Club, Brook Street, 12.45.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,709



### ACROSS

- 1 Froasic practical way to earn one's daily bread (8)
- 2 Hurt me inside severely (6)
- 3 Cuts about half a coat - a housecoat (6)
- 4 No good looks single us out (8)
- 5 Lock holding well might prevent this (8)
- 6 Sauce from two sailors (6)
- 7 Arctic river, the French river (5)
- 8 A cut in £25 inheritance (9)
- 9 Precise writing and pleasing (9)
- 10 Jump about, king (5)
- 11 In particular, imitate the farmer's wife (6)
- 12 Belgian Mollie (8)
- 13 Give me back crackers and cheese (8)
- 14 A number take sport with this air target (6)
- 15 German translation - a crib (6)
- 16 At the present time, you heartlessly let mougal die (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Provincial sort of oration (7)
- 2 Thrill to George Bernard's fantastic creation (9)

Price Crossword in The Times tomorrow  
Jumbo Prize Crossword on Thursday, December 24

### Exhibitions

Guild of Lakeland Craftsmen winter exhibition, Whitehaven Museum, Market Place, Whitehaven, Cumbria, 10 to 5.  
Exhibition by Kodak Yorkshire Post Building, Wellington Street, Leeds, 9 to 5.30.

Great North Road, Great North Road, road and rail transport in the West, Hatfield Museum, Mill Green, Hatfield, Herts, 10 to 5.  
J. Q. Pringle, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield, 10 to 5.

Duncan Grant, Works on Paper, Anthony d'Offay, 9, Dering Street, New Bond Street, 10 to 5.30 (last day).  
William Havell bicentenary exhibition, Spink and Son, 5 King Street, St James's, 9.30 to 5.30 (last day).

The Science and Art of Medicine, Wellcome Museum of the History of Medicine, Science Museum, 10 to 6.  
Henry Lamb, New Craftsman Gallery, 42 Old Bond Street, 10 to 6.

Navajo Indians, land and photographic exhibition, Horniman Museum, London Road, SE 23, 10.30 to 6.

### Music

York Musical Society concert, York Minster, 7.30.  
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Town Hall, 11.  
East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes, Canterbury Cathedral, 7.30.

### Auctions today

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: Chinese ceramics, works of art, paintings and small bronzes, 10.30; 2: prints, 11. Christie's, South Kensington: printed books, 10.30; Art Nouveau and Art Deco, 10.30. Phillips, Bloomsbury Street: silver and plate, 11. Sotheby's Bond Street: carpets, 10; furniture, 11.

### Viewing

Phillips, Bloomsbury Street: silver and plate, 9 to 10.30; furniture, carpets, objects: watercolours and drawings; oil paintings: antique and modern jewelry, all 9 to 4.30.

### Sporting fixtures

Football: Third division, Millwall v Plymouth Argyle (7.30); fourth division, Colchester United v Crewe Alexandra (7.30). Other matches off.  
Show jumping: International Show, at Olympia (1.30 and 7.00).

### Sport on TV

BBC 1: 10.20, International Show Jumps.  
BBC 2: 5.55, International Prochess.  
ITV: 6.30, Thames Sport.

### Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on communications in London and the South-east.

### Today's anniversaries

Joseph John Thomson, physicist, born at Cheetham Hall near Manchester, 1858. Antonio Stradivari died at Cremona, Italy, 1737.

### Roads

Only high-fresh snowfalls in Scotland, Yorkshire and Cornwall, but some roads in Scotland, Pennines, N England and Wales still closed, including A59, Cockbridge Road in Aberfeldy, A57, Soke Park and A58 in Lancashire, Horseshoe Pass in Snowdonia, roads remain very icy and A58 in North Wales reduced to two lanes; speed limits likely on motorways. Freezing fog, also likely, with rain, snow, sleet, drivers advised to exercise great care.

Roadworks: North: A535: Alderley Road, Chelford closed between railway bridge and Curbiton Brook; diversion. A55: Roadworks at Roole roundabout, Chester. A5023: Roadworks at Denby features, Chalfont Bridge, 5.30 to 6.

Wales and West: A40: Roadworks at Whitland, Dyfed, A38: Westbound lane closures at Haldon Hill, Hereford and northbound lane closures at Dymock, Dean Prior, A493: Be changed. A49: Blasting in progress from Brodriod to Burnside Lodge each weekday, 1 to 3.

Midlands: A54: Southbound lane closure on Huntingdon bypass. Roadworks may be cancelled if weather becomes unsuitable. Information supplied by AA and RAC.

### The papers

The Washington Post said yesterday it was becoming clear that General Jaruzelski, who may mean to leave Poland, is a bloodier and cooler realist of Russian intervention. "It is doing the Soviet's dirty work for them".

While accepting the Lords' decision that GLC fare reductions were illegal, the Daily Mirror demands the law be changed. "When 939,451 voters for Labour in 1979, for less than five years, the Lords in December, where does that leave local democracy?" it asks.

### Top box office films

The top 10 films in London:  
1 Gallipoli  
2 The French Lieutenant's Woman  
3 An American Werewolf in London  
4 Mommie Dearest  
5 The Fox and the Hound  
6 For Your Eyes Only  
7 Kentucky Fried Movie/The Other Cinderella  
8 Raiders of the Lost Ark  
9 Dressed to Kill/The Amityville Horror

The top five in the provinces:  
1 The Fox and the Hound  
2 Private Benjamin  
3 An American Werewolf in London  
4 The French Lieutenant's Woman  
5 Midnight Express/McVicar

Compiled by Screen International

### The Pound

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.71	1.64
Austria Sch	31.75	29.65
Belgium Fr	85.69	81.59
Canada \$	2.32	2.23
Denmark Kr	14.43	13.78
France Fr	11.35	11.25
Germany DM	4.49	4.28
Greece Dr	121.00	113.00
Hong Kong \$	11.05	10.45
Ireland Pt	1.24	1.19
Italy Lit	2350.00	2250.00
Japan Yn	438.00	413.00
Netherlands Gld	4.88	4.64
Portugal Esc	123.00	122.00
South Africa R	1.90	1.74
Spain Ptas	166.00	162.00
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.16
Switzerland Fr	3.82	3.40
USA \$	1.85	1.83

Notes for small denomination bank notes, including currency, by Bank of England.

London: The FT Index fell 1.9 to 570.53.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.81 at 570.53.

### Food prices

Severe weather conditions have restricted supplies of home grown vegetables, so prices are likely to be higher than normal. But fresh imports, mostly from Spain, are plentiful and no abnormal price rises are anticipated. Pork and lamb prices are generally steady, but beef prices are under pressure to rise, with topside at around 22.

### Aid for Poland

Cheques and postal orders to Save the Children Fund, 157, Chancery Lane, London WC2N 6JF (tel: 01-582 1414), or The Ockenfeld Centre, 10, Old Broad Street, London EC4A 3DF (tel: 01-582 7201).

Timed foods, well packaged, baby foods, toddler paper or soap (no jars or perishables) can be donated at any Ockenfeld office or shop.

### Times world-wide

Noon in London: 7 am in New York, 4 am in San Francisco, 9 pm in Tokyo, 11 pm in Canberra, 2 pm in Johannesburg, 4 pm in United Arab Emirates, 5 pm in Kenya, 1 pm in Nigeria, 3 pm in Moscow, 3 pm in Hong Kong.

### Christmas mail

Tomorrow is the last posting day for Christmas for first class mail.

### Phoning Santa Claus

Children can telephone Santa Claus until December 29 for a story. The number in London is 01-246 8020. In most other places it is 8020 preceded by the area code.

### THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS

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## Weather

An area of low pressure will move E over France while a very cold N-NE airstream will persist over Britain.

### 6 am to midnight

London: Rain, cloudy, perhaps a little snow at first, clear later; wind NE, fresh to strong. Mild, moderate; sun temp 10 (34F).  
SE England, East Angles: Rather cloudy, cold, some snow, but mainly rain; wind NE, strong to very strong; sun temp 10 (34F).  
Wales, SW England, Midlands, Wales: Rain, cold, some snow, but mainly rain; wind NE, strong to very strong; sun temp 10 (34F).  
Central Scotland, Ulster, of rain, snow, becoming dry with sun intervals; wind NE, strong to very strong; sun temp 10 (34F).  
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